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Chinese trump card is a long-term prospect

The West is increasingly being urged to play its China card, especially in the United States where President Carter surprisingly decided to establish full diplomatic ties with Peking at the end of last year.

China's Senior Deputy Premier Deng Xiaoping certainly served the Chinese card on a silver platter, as it were. All America or the West needs do is help itself, or so it seems.

In the United States dissatisfaction with the Soviet Union has so increased in recent years that the offer of a Sino-US alliance against Moscow can be sure of a ready public hearing.

Soviet intervention in Africa, the extension of Soviet influence in Afghanistan and Soviet backing for Vietnam's new imperialism have let loose a deluge of mistrust.

Any opportunity of exerting pressure on Moscow seems welcome in the circumstances. Peking's hostility towards the Soviet Union is a godsend for irate Americans who feel they now, at long last, have a way of bringing the Kremlin to reason.

In this country such ideas are nothing new. Nearly 25 years ago Konrad Adenauer based his hopes on the Soviet Union soon feeling obliged to seek friends in the West to keep the Chinese to the East at bay.

This hope was never fulfilled, but to this day there are West German politicians who see China as a trump card in world affairs.

Not for nothing was Franz Josef Strauss one of the first Western politicians to visit Peking and make friends with the Chinese Communists despite abhorring others of their breed.

This reasoning is based on the old political counsel: be in league with your neighbour's neighbour.

This is not official Bonn policy, of course. Only recently Klaus von Dohnanyi, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, assured his Soviet hosts there was no such thing as a China card as far as Bonn was concerned.

Richard von Weizsäcker for the Christian Democratic Opposition in Bonn agreed. West Germany's only intention with regard to People's China was to maintain normal, good relations as with any other country.

On this issue Bonn is reassuringly in line with Washington, where President Carter politely ignored Deng Xiaoping's advocacy of an alliance against the Soviet Union.

This attitude is clearly influenced by the Soviet leadership's response to the rapprochement between China and the West. Moscow has seldom seemed so sensitive, warning against support for the Chinese at every opportunity.

Two reasons are invariably advanced. First, China is a tremendous threat to the world, being aggressive and hell-bent on subjugating others.

Second, an alliance between China and the West would put paid to East-West detente and mark an irrevocable return to cold war.

Both arguments are highly dubious. Communist China, like Imperial China before it, has signally failed to pursue adventurous or imperialist policies.

The only instance that might possibly be advanced is Tibet, which China took over decades ago. But Tibet had long been part of China.

And as for East-West detente, its continuance will depend first and foremost on the Soviet Union itself.

Moscow is not really interested in saving the world from cold war or China's alleged aggressive intentions. What worries Mr Brezhnev is the nightmare of encirclement.

He is like Bismarck who a century ago was alarmed at the prospect of an alliance between France to the west and Russia to the east of the Reich.

This anxiety is understandable enough, even though China, despite a nuclear potential that must surely still be fairly rudimentary, is not yet a serious military threat to the Soviet Union.

In two or three decades an economically, technologically and militarily stronger China could create serious problems for the Soviet Union.

The border between the two countries is extremely long, and the Soviet hinterland is poorly developed and thinly populated.

Soviet anxiety would seem at first glance to indicate that the West really is thinking in terms of playing the China card, but the call for any such move is for the time being a mere catchphrase.

What is the China card and how do you play it? Only a simpleton would advise the West to urge China to wage war with Russia. That would definitely be an irresponsible adventure.

The Chinese leaders are well aware of this and will not allow themselves to be persuaded. They may call for the taming of the polar bear but they have no intention of doing the West's dirty work.

What the West might consider is long-term consolidation of China, with repercussions that would only be perceptible in the course of decades, and of late there has been widespread debate on this option in the West.

A deep rift is felt to exist between countries such as Britain and France, who are prepared to supply China with arms, and others, such as Bonn, who are not. The difference is not that decisive. If the West sells China modern know-how the Chinese are not going to use it only to manufacture machinery; they will use it in arms manufacture if they feel so inclined.

Is this, then, what playing the China card means? The import and export of goods is standard practice between most countries; so is the transfer of modern technology.

The Soviet Union benefits from both, yet no-one has jumped to the conclusion that the West is trying in this way to mobilise the Soviet Union against others.

After the establishment of normal diplomatic relations it would be artificial and unnatural to want to exclude China from this normal exchange of goods and know-how.

No-one can tell what may happen in the long run, but a China card that can be played whenever required will be unrealistic for years to come.

Policies cannot be planned decades in advance. There can be no telling what may happen in the world today.

Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 February 1979)



(Cartoon: EGmagazin/Peter Leger)

Salt II fails to reassure sceptics

After the British, French and West German leaders' "fireside chat" with President Carter in Guadeloupe the European statesmen were unanimous in their hope that America and Russia would at long last finalise Salt II in the interest of West European security.

Public opinion has since noted with growing unrest the tussle over the treaty and wondered whether, in view of its obvious importance, Mr Carter was right to burden the talks between Washington and Moscow with an agreement with Peking.

Impatiently awaiting a successful conclusion of the Salt talks, people are wondering whether its further delay will worsen the West's security position.

Nothing is more dangerous than to equate a treaty with the effect it is desired to achieve. Yet there is a mistaken tendency to view the US-Soviet Salt talks as a reliable guide to the Soviet desire for detente and to draw inferences as to subsequent Soviet behaviour towards Europe.

Salt I surely showed that Moscow may sign treaties but is not going to halt the pace of boosting the Red Army's nuclear capacity in sectors not covered by the terms of the treaty.

As a result free Europe faces an even greater Soviet nuclear threat in the wake of Salt I than it did beforehand.

Us Secretary of State Cyrus Vance says that after Salt II the West will be able to set about improving some aspects of conventional and nuclear capacity in the European Nato countries.

In other words, Western Europe must be equipped with new weapons systems capable of matching the threat posed by Soviet SS20 missiles and Backfire bom-

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EUROPE

Europarliament candidates take to the hustings

Direct elections to the European Parliament are to be held for the first time this June, and thousands of candidates in all nine Common Market countries are taking to the hustings.

They will have their work cut out persuading voters to go to the polls. The 410 directly-elected European MPs, like their 198 nominated predecessors, will have strictly limited powers and correspondingly scant appeal to the electorate.

The European Parliament has some rights of control over the EEC Commission in Brussels. It can even force the Commission to resign by a vote of no confidence.

Mind you, this calls for a two-thirds majority of the full Assembly, and not just two thirds of the members present.

But the European Parliament is virtually powerless when it comes to the Council of Ministers, on which the appropriate Cabinet Ministers of the Nine reign supreme to the point of enjoying a right of veto.

It can neither unseat national heads of government nor elect new ones.

Would-be Europarliamentarians point out that this need not be a permanent state of affairs. Directly-elected by EEC voters, they gradually hope to gain additional responsibilities.

This bill drawn on the future need not be dismissed as a worthless scrap of paper either. Most national parliaments had to fight for their rights against kings and princes.

In this bid to put forward a worth-while target with which to induce 180 million Common Market voters to go to the polls candidates are more hindered than helped by their respective parties.

None of the Bonn Bundestag parties will admit to anything less than having taken out exclusive rights to the spirit of European integration.

They all endorse upgrading the European Parliament to an organ of control befitting a democracy — and many another resounding European objective.

But in day-to-day politics European ideas look like being submerged by a cacophony of argument and polemics, with political adversaries of old being served up in new clothes.

Christian Democrats fulminate against a Socialist Europe as though preparing to meet their doom. Freedom or Popular Front is the misleading slogan of the Bavarian CSU, implying these are the alternatives.

Social Democrats vilify Christian Democrats as restoration figures, Social Democrats alone being able to build Europe as a fatherland of peace.

Free Democrats take an even wider-ranging swipe at what they call a conservative counter-reformation on the one hand and collectivist egalitarianism on the other.

Feuding between CDU and CSU as to whether the Bavarian CSU should be entitled to test its strength nationwide for once shows once and for all that a domestic trial of strength, and not Europe, is the main consideration.

Social, Christian and Free Democrats would do well to exercise more restraint in their choice of exaggerated slogans inasmuch as they have formed loose alliances with other parties in other EEC countries on the basis of a lowest common denominator that is none too high.

How do the CDU, with their condemnation of the Left, propose to come to terms with Italy's Christian Democrats, who have an arrangement with the Communists in Rome?

These barren polemics can hardly fail to put off the voters, not attract them, which is the declared intention.

Should turnout prove disappointing, as well it may, European MPs will lack what they need most: a groundswell of trust in the fight with the governments of the Nine for more rights.

Klaus Bohnhof

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 February 1979)

THE EUROPARLIAMENT

410 directly-elected MPs

Likely political affiliations*: Right-wingers & splinter groups 16; Christian Democrats and Conservatives 166; Liberals 50; Social Democrats and Socialists 132; Communists & Far Left 46

Membership by country: Denmark 16; Federal Republic of Germany 81; Holland 25; France 81; Belgium 24; Britain 81; Luxembourg 6; Italy 81; Ireland 15

* based on party-political balance in individual parliaments at end of 1978

Salt II

Continued from page 1

bers and other systems should their use not be limited by a further treaty.

So far, Moscow has baulked at including these Soviet weapons in the Salt agenda, which is why many Americans by no means share the optimism their President purports to feel.

In a nutshell, what they feel is that there will be increasingly improved weapons systems over the next few years but no improvement in Western security.

Scepticism on detente has increased markedly in the United States, and not just because a group of cold warriors has come to the fore.

There is an increasing realisation that the wording of the treaty is not crucial; what matters is whether one is able to prevent the other side from breaching the spirit of the agreement.

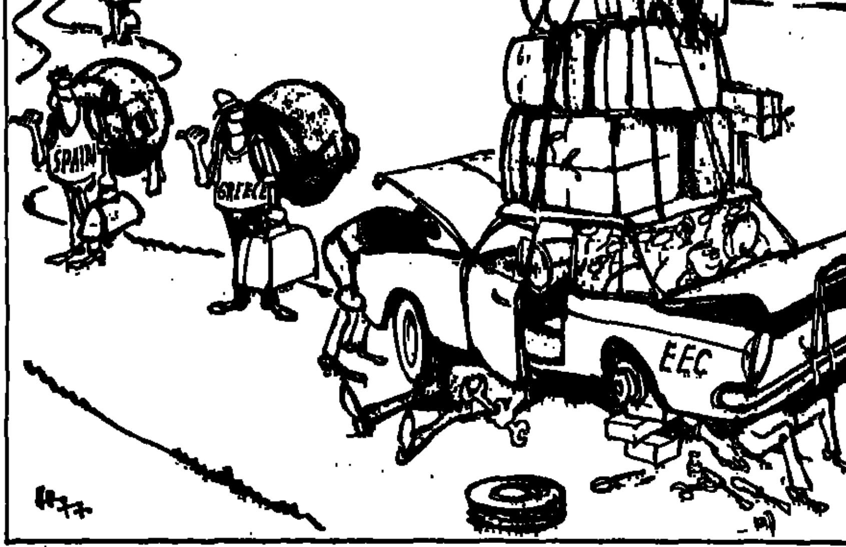
The protracted progress of talks so far has tended to indicate the degree of mistrust that exists between Moscow and Washington.

Much though one might wish the great powers would put the enormous sums they now invest in nuclear armament to more peaceful use, it is still premature to hope that Salt II might entitle the West to lower its guard in the conventional sector.

There is no reason to oppose efforts to conclude Salt II as soon as possible, but there is none to expect it to reduce the threat from the East either.

Joachim Kannicht

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 February 1979)

Twelve-member Common Market a mixed blessing



The prospect of EEC membership reaching a round dozen when Greece, Portugal and Spain join the European Community is viewed with misgivings. Some are enthusiastic, others are not.

Politicians regard the accession of three new democratically-governed Common Market members as a consolidation of the free groundwork of Western Europe.

Economists, especially agricultural policymakers, are worried the three newcomers will prove a heavy burden on the Nine.

Enthusiastic words were spoken at a 5 February Brussels ceremony to mark the start of Spain's membership talks, but there was no mistaking the misgivings.

A larger EEC would be more important politically, but this attraction would be overshadowed by three facts that weigh heavily:

— First, the Common Market's financial commitment to shore up industry and agriculture in the new member-countries.

— Second, the increase in living costs that can be expected to occur there when they take over the high EEC prices for farm produce.

— Third, greater difficulties in the institutional sector, especially in decision-making, as a result of one country invariably feeling its national interest is at stake and wanting to veto a decision by the Council of Ministers.

Greece, Portugal and Spain as new members might be a blessing for consumers in Northern Europe, of course. All have warm climates and will be able to provide an ample supply of early fruit and vegetables.

But industrial turnover is unlikely to benefit markedly from higher sales in these countries. Per capita income in Greece and the Iberian peninsula is far from high, although there may be a certain backlog to make good.

Migrant labour a major import?

Besides, the weaker companies in these countries will cry out for protection from northern competition, whereas existing EEC countries will be expected to open their borders to imports from the newcomers.

A major import is sure to be migrant labour, yet the drift north will be to countries which between them already have six million registered unemployed.

Politicians have chosen to ignore the sum total of problems enlarging the EEC will entail. "If only they knew!" Brussels Eurocrats have been known to lament.

Helmut J. Weland

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 6 February 1979)

(Cartoon: Horst Haitzinger/Nordwest Zeitung)

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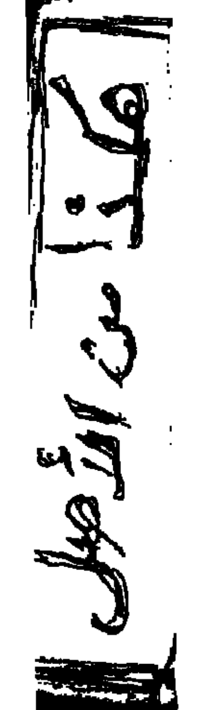
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PARTY POLITICS

Helmut Kohl's rivals vie for CDU succession

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The Christian Democratic Opposition in Bonn has split into three. One faction is systematically working towards the downfall of CDU leader Helmut Kohl, another is rushing to his rescue and the third is biding time to see who wins.

However different their motives, all three are playing a part in his political fate. Even those who claim to be helping him are only doing so because they hope, in the long term, to be his heirs.

There are two notable exceptions. One is CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler, whose political fate is, of course, closely bound up with Kohl's. If the party leader falls, his general secretary has to go too.

The second is Bernhard Vogel, Prime Minister of the Rhineland-Palatinate. He is Kohl's political foster-son and is sometimes mentioned as a candidate for higher office. But ambitious though he is, he is not prepared to commit patricide for the sake of advancement.

In the second rank a bitter conflict has for some time been raging between Kohl's former general secretary Kurt Biedenkopf and Ernst Albrecht, Prime Minister of Lower Saxony.

As soon as Biedenkopf's memorandum became known, Albrecht started to stamp out the flames of a possible rebellion within the CDU. He sensed a chance of getting on to the CDU presidium, displacing Biedenkopf.

Albrecht's most recent interview, in which he rather piously reflects on happiness and moral values and reproaches members of the presidium "who would like to take Helmut Kohl's place," underlines this.

The Kohl team suspects that the centre from which all these blows to CDU morale are planned is Munich.

Certainly the game Franz Josef Strauss is playing with the lists for elections to the European Parliament is a subtle one.

His northern spearheads Franz Meyers, Lothar Bossle, Heinrich Hellwege, Gerhard Löwenthal and so on are not a potentially vote-catching team but this is secondary. It is the timing that puts the CDU on the spot.

The (hitherto Bavaria-only) CSU will maintain its threat of putting up candidates nationwide until after the CDU party conference in Kiel.

At Kiel the CDU leader will be re-elected and the (everywhere but Bavaria) CDU must decide if it is going to counter by putting up its own candidates in Bavaria.

This means Herr Kohl is right back where he was two years ago, when the CSU first threatened to go it alone. Nobody in the CDU seriously believes the party in its present state can boost its share of the vote in the Rhineland-Palatinate and West Berlin before and in Schleswig-Holstein after the European Assembly elections.

The time is ripe for a crisis strategy by the south against the "Northern lights." Strauss can hardly be interested in much more, since the grouping now being formed as the Liberal Conservative European Initiative is not likely to bring him many votes. He may drop Bossle and Co. at the last minute.

Whatever his purposes, Strauss has struck Kohl to the marrow this time and at a time when Kohl, in meticulous discussion therapy, is trying to rescue his concept for the tightening up of the parliamentary party's work.

The effect Kohl once had by virtue of his personal and moral integrity has lost some of its magic.

To some extent he has only himself to blame. After the Hesse elections, if not earlier, he should have conceded that his strategy of regaining power in Bonn with the help of the FDP before the 1980 general election had failed.

So, too, had the Strauss-inspired attempt to drive the FDP out of the Bonn and Land parliaments for a longer period. But to conclude that the Opposition can only increase its power by fighting elections as two parties is wrong.

Any CDU rival for Kohl's place must realise that the tougher conflict, with Strauss, would face him as soon as he took over. Kurt Biedenkopf is fully aware of this.

For a long time Kohl believed he was the only reliable bulwark against Strauss's ambition to become Chancellor and transform the CDU/CSU into a party which saw it as its historic task to defend Western values against imaginary socialist floods.

The need to ward off Strauss, and his own fixation on the Chancellorship made Kohl blind to much that could have been done.

There are signs he does not intend to let the work of destruction directed against him go on until his downfall is complete.

As he can be cowed, but not changed, the turning point can be foreseen. Helmut Kohl looks like shaking off his tormentors and throwing in the towel.

Klaus Dreher

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 February 1979)

Fredersdorf: just a pawn in CSU game?

Hermann Fredersdorf, general secretary of the inland revenue officers' trade union and presumptive leader of a taxpayers' party, recently said:

"Although at 55 I am still as responsibility-conscious and strong as ever, I am no longer as ambitious as I was. I have planted more than one tree, fathered more than one son and written more than one book.

"So I would be thankful to anyone who could take the burden off my shoulders and see that the demands of the people are met at last."

Fredersdorf is now determined to roll up his sleeves on May Day and plant another tree: the Citizens' Party (BP). Despite ice and frost Fredersdorf has been very busy recently preparing the ground for his new sapling.

A reconciliation bid between Fredersdorf and Social Democrat Hans Apel (who was trying to bring Fredersdorf back into the SPD fold) failed, so the self-appointed representative of the tax-paying public began knocking on the doors of big business.

His attacks on over-regimentation, over-taxation and over-bureaucratisation will certainly fall on ready ears here, but whether they will be prepared to help Fredersdorf financially in his ambition to do great deeds is another question altogether.

Now Franz Josef Strauss has opened a ... to Fredersdorf. The CSU leader and Bavarian Prime Minister is one of the Establishment against whom Fredersdorf's indignation about high taxes and bureaucracy is directed.

But Strauss bears no grudges. Far from it. He believes "a loosening-up of the party scene" is inevitable if the CDU and CSU are to regain power in Bonn.

So Fredersdorf's bid is not at all unwelcome. He can at least be used as another pawn against Helmut Kohl.

How does Fredersdorf feel? He would like to know how serious the CSU is about its perennial threat of going nationwide and endangering his tree before he even plants it.

Clear answers are not not forthcoming in Munich, not, at least, for public consumption. What does Strauss want? A test-run for a nationwide CSU in the European elections?

The Liberal Conservative Action, due to be founded in Bonn on 19 February, would be an auxiliary force for such a list. But its best-known spokesman, former North Rhine-Westphalian Prime Minister Franz Meyers, seems to be vacillating already.

Strauss is not taking chances. He and his party do not want to decide until 31 March whether, as in all previous elections, they will only run in Bavaria or, for the first time, against the CDU throughout the country.

The CSU will continue to keep its unloved big sister, the CDU, on tenterhooks.

If the split between the CDU and the CSU does not take place in March, it could always occur later in the year. The CDU and the CSU have agreed if necessary, to consider the possibility of going separate ways in order to win the 1980 general election.

The time to consider the option of the CSU as a nationwide fourth party will come after the European elections at the latest.

Helmut Kohl, who wants to spare the Opposition a nationwide CDU and a nationwide CSU because this would amount to a separation between the two step-sisters, is again on the defensive in this discussion, which is demoralising for the party.

His hopes and tactics were directed towards enticing the FDP away from the SPD and bringing it over to the CDU side by 1980. He seems to have miscalculated here, too.

Franz Josef Strauss is rubbing this in. In this context his talks with Fredersdorf were also a side-swipe at the CDU leader.

What Herr Strauss seems to be thinking is: "If I don't start a nationwide CSU or a fourth party, I've always got Fredersdorf."

Joachim Stoltenberg

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 6 February 1979)

FDP worried by Schmidt's popularity

Leading Free Democrats look grim when discussing their political opponents, the Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU).

The Opposition's ongoing leadership discussion has been worrying FDP leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher for weeks.

With respect for Opposition leader Helmut Kohl dwindling as respect for Chancellor Schmidt increases, the Chancellor could attempt to win an absolute majority in the next election — and might even succeed.

This would mean the FDP, currently junior Coalition partners in Bonn with Helmut Schmidt's Social Democrats, would be ousted from government, since their votes would no longer be needed.

These are not the public crocodile tears Willy Brandt once shed about the state of "that great party," as he glibly chose to call the CDU/CSU. They are secret, serious worries based on specific figures and thorough reflection.

Comparison with the figures for the 1976 general election makes FDP fears seem absurd. Helmut Schmidt and the SPD would need another six per cent to even equal the CDU's October 1976 48.6 per cent. There has never before been such a landslide.

What so worries members of the FDP presidium is the huge measure of approval for Helmut Schmidt at the moment. Sixty-four per cent rate him "good" or "very good."

Even in Adenauer's time there were seldom situations in which more than fifty per cent said they approved of the Chancellor's policies. Once in 1955 the figure was 55 per cent and in the last quarter of 1958 it was 51 per cent.

Approval of overall policies was less sweeping at the peak of Konrad Adenauer's popularity than it is now.

The other question asked in connection with Adenauer, whether he was "one of the great men of the century," has not yet been posed in Schmidt's case, but the present Chancellor would hardly get the 53 per cent Adenauer polled on this score.

Yet there is no doubt that public approval of the present Bonn government can in large measure be equated with approval of Helmut Schmidt.

What worries FDP leaders is that the CDU could lose somewhere between four-and-a-half and five per cent of its vote if it does not solve its leadership crisis in time.

The FDP, who are not in the best of form themselves, cannot rule out the possibility that they may drop from the 7.9 per cent of 1976 to six per cent next time round.

If the Land elections leading up to next year's general election result in FDP defeats as in Hamburg and Lower Saxony, the Chancellor would have to "go it alone."

Against a demoralised CDU and a reeling FDP the SPD, in a campaign largely based on Helmut Schmidt, might gain an absolute majority.

If groupings such as the Conservative Liberal Action were to poll a few per cent of the votes, 48.5 per cent would be enough for an absolute majority.

The FDP would be out of office even though it got back into parliament.

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■ MEDIA

VWD and Reuter: no holds barred after decades in business news harness

West German business executives are as familiar with the abbreviation VWD as politicians are with the abbreviations of political parties. VWD business news has been part of their lives for years.

VWD stands for Vereinigte Wirtschaftsdienste, the Continent's largest economic news agency with an annual turnover of DM25m.

Its headquarters are in Eschborn, near Frankfurt, and it has for the past thirty years had a virtual domestic monopoly of economic news from all over the world.

But this has all changed now. Since the beginning of the year Reuter has come to the fore as a direct competitor.

For thirty years they cooperated closely. Reuter, one of the initiators of VWD, supplied much of the foreign news. It holds a 33-per-cent stake in the share capital of VWD which it intends to retain.

The partnership was ended on VWD's initiative. By the terms of the contract Reuter was permitted to offer its lucrative computer services to German customers.

This data service direct to the customer's monitor screen has assumed such proportions oves the past fifteen years that Reuter soon found itself with more takers on the German market than did VWD, which did not provide this service.

Competition between the two partners of many years' standing means a wind of change on Germany's economic news market.

Though there are still some potential customers to be tapped, the two competitors will have to break new ground to hold on to old customers and gain new ones.

Chief executives of banks, commercial and industrial companies and large agricultural firms will have to opt for two economic news services or one.

VWD's forte is its familiarity with the German economy and its needs, This enables it to provide information tailored to particular needs where others can only operate on an off-the-peg basis.

Reuter's going it alone means that VWD will have to forgo this major source of foreign information. If for no other reason, financial considerations preclude its covering world markets with correspondents of its own.

To offset this, the German agency has entered into cooperation agreements with three economic news services abroad.

Reuter's Economic Services leads in the economic, financial and stockmarket news sector. It attained this position at the very top by using computers to enable it to serve its customers better and faster.

VWD had only just started to provide German business with round-the-clock information by telex instead of by mail when Reuter was already canvassing for customers for its computer service.

It was not the first time in more than a century that the British agency beat its competitors to it.

The divorce between Reuter and VWD is more than just a family feud. It is the beginning of a power struggle for Europe's economic information market.

Headed by VWD, market media groups are now forming in Europe to provide an alternative to Reuter, while US agencies, hard-pressed by Reuter's back home, now hope to gain a foothold in Europe.

Unlike political news agencies, economic services are not really dependent on the mass media. VWD makes only about twenty per cent of turnover from the media, the rest coming from its 6,000 or so business subscribers in West Germany.

They are mostly trading companies, banks, industry, agriculture and brokers. VWD runs some sixty specialised services geared to the various branches of business.

It maintains offices in Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen, Hanover, Düsseldorf, Cologne, Bonn, Mannheim, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Nuremberg and Munich. Home news items are collected at all these stations.

VWD also uses the DPA network and has foreign correspondents in Brussels, London, Paris, Vienna, Stockholm, The Hague, Madrid, Milan, New York, Brazil, Argentina, Greece, Luxembourg and Istanbul.

Furthermore, it can avail itself of the services of 39 foreign correspondents of the Federal Office for Foreign Trade, an agency of the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry, and DPA correspondents in seventy countries.

To remain competitive in the face of changing market conditions in Germany, VWD intends to enlarge its own network of foreign correspondents.

To take the place of Reuter's, VWD will in future cooperate with a Swiss and two American economic news services with correspondents all over the world.

The US agencies are AP and UPI. AP has been cooperating with Dow Jones since 1967, while UPI joined forces with Commodity News Services (Unicom) in 1977. The third VWD partner is the Swiss bank information service Telekurs AG.

Cooperation with Telekurs enables VWD to offer its German customers a computer terminal service in their own language.

Eight computers store some 2,000m characters with quotations from eighty securities and seventeen commodities exchanges throughout the world.

Investdata offers six different programmes. All exchange information arrives in real time, in other words, without delay.

Reuter's, the first computerised agency, revolutionised economic news reporting by the introduction of terminals of which the famous Stockmaster was the first.

The service was constantly improved until 1973 when Reuter's introduced the Monitor Service, enabling customers to forget about watching the ticker constantly. Instead, they were able to ask for any data of interest.

The Monitor Service earned Reuter 3,000 customers in 33 countries within five years. In Germany alone, despite its partnership with VWD, Reuter gained 400 new customers. Of these, 200 subscribe to the Monitor Service. As a result, the British agency made an additional turnover of DM20m in the Federal Republic of Germany.

At least two-thirds of Reuter's DM239m budget is financed by its economic services. This financial preponderance of the economic services within the framework of a worldwide news agency has its drawbacks and could easily have a detrimental effect on the integrity of services to the press.

It must be remembered that Reuter's banking department cost the agency much of its reputation before the First World War because it resorted to extortionist methods on occasion in order to obtain advantages in the news business.

Reuter has spent DM4m on the German-language economic news service of its German subsidiary. The central editorial office for both the economic and the press services will be in Bonn, a stone's throw from the Chancellery.

Knowing the British, they will cash in on this location.

Hansjoachim Höhne

(Deutsche Zeitung, 9 February 1979)

FDP worried

Continued from page 3

Liberal strategists do not believe this will happen but suspect it could,

They are determined that if Helmut Schmidt seriously sought to go it alone they would bring down the Bonn Coalition. They also hope the Opposition will recover enough for the Chancellor to remain dependent on the FDP.

Another projection said to have been made in high government circles in December shows this hope could be justified.

Divisions within the FDP on the Kalkar fast breeder reactor indicated that such a slim majority as at present would not be enough after the next general election. So FDP worries have changed rapidly.

Gottfried Capell

(Die Welt, 5 February 1979)

Press demands share in new TV rival

Neue Ruhr Zeitung editor-in-chief Jens Feddersen calls the TV newspaper a side dish to go with the conventional paper.

The recipe is no secret. The only thing still under dispute is who will be permitted to prepare it: the broadcasting companies or the newspapers themselves?

Technical experiments commissioned by the Bundespost from the Munich-based Institute for Radio Technology have been going on for more than a year.

Newspapers have been prevented from carrying out their own experiments because legal aspects of broadcasting rights are still unsolved. The Länder have formed a working party to deal with the matter.

Communications experts have long agreed that in an increasing number of occupational and everyday life areas, papers will more and more be supplanted by electronics as the material carrier of information.

The advantages are obvious. Information disseminated electronically is cheaper and quicker, and wherever information is dealt with professionally the computer terminal is already gaining the upper hand.

It was obvious technicians had to seek ways and means of including the TV set in this development. Industry has developed several methods whereby information can be relayed to TV sets.

Of these, the videotext method is the simplest. Information rides piggyback on the waves transmitting normal TV broadcasts.

Making use of this technology, newspaper publishers tested a TV paper at the 1977 Berlin Radio Show and found that it provided ample wave range to transmit all kinds of constantly updated information.

The reader of a TV newspaper can avail himself of the information he happens to need at any time, be it theatre programmes complete with information on the availability of tickets or current political and local news.

But major reports, commentaries and features are unsuitable for this medium. The TV newspaper is best suited to news that becomes stale rapidly, particularly news in brief.

Realising this, newspapers cannot afford to miss the opportunity that goes with this innovation. If they did so they would be unable to compete with the broadcasting networks in providing highly topical information.

Even so, the networks claim the newly-developed technology for themselves, rejecting any idea of sharing it with the newspapers.

Broadcasters maintain that newspapers should seek other electronic means such as the Bundespost's TV screen text system, which is to undergo field trials in Düsseldorf and Neuss (a suburb of Cologne) next year.

This method uses the telephone network. As in the viddotext system, the subscriber can read the desired text on his TV screen. But the postal system has the disadvantage of being considerably more expensive.

The TV newspaper exemplifies how delineation between broadcasting and press is becoming increasingly blurred.

In Britain, where the TV newspapers of the public-sector British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the commercial ITV (in which newspapers have a stake) have become part of the everyday supply of news, experiments are now under way to bring it to the screens of TV viewers by means of an adaptor.

Similar experiments are also in progress at Berlin's Heinrich Hertz Institute.

Since the broadcasting networks are unwilling to compromise it will be up to the Länder, which have jurisdiction over broadcasting, to decide who will be permitted to publish TV papers.

A work group of Länder broadcasting experts is now dealing with the problem.

Newspaper publishers have repeatedly stressed that TV papers must be regarded as a form of the press and demanded access to videotext technology as a means of safeguarding their future.

Claus Detjen

(Münchner Merkur, 31 January 1979)

■ FACTS ON FILE

GIs guard 100 million Nazi dossiers in West Berlin

The Berlin Document Centre with its records of former Nazis will for the time being remain in US hands. Bonn has denied reports that negotiations to take over the archives are almost complete. Government spokesman Klaus Bölling will admit to no more than that negotiations are still in progress.

Americans and Germans have been negotiating since 1967 on a takeover of the Document Centre by Bonn. Talks first reached deadlock in 1970.

Walter Scheel, then Foreign Minister, said: "The talks have not led to any result because the two governments cannot agree on the terms of a takeover."

Early last year SPD MP Karl-Heinz Hansen said the Berlin Document Centre was a hot potato the Germans did not want to burn their fingers with. They preferred to cover up the Nazi past of prominent public figures.

Other politicians replied that this would be an excellent reason for trying to get hold of the material – to hush up possible Nazi pasts even more effectively.

For some time it has been evident that the Americans are not keen on continuing to bear this burden from the Second World War.

The Washington Post reckoned the Germans would not accept their legacy for another fourteen years at least, by when all former officials of the Hitler regime would be dead. In its opinion Bonn is to blame for the slowness of negotiations.

One hundred million pages recording Germany's Nazi past are stored in bunkers at the end of a cul-de-sac in the exclusive West Berlin suburb of Zehlendorf.

A house was built on top of the bunkers, and the house is surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. The Americans guard the Document Centre day and night. The entire complex is lit up at night.

The collected documents about the NSDAP and its various organisations are all in the subterranean vaults of this former SS wire-tapping bunker.

The party file contains records of over ten million members. Then there are personal files on 600,000 SA men, 230,000 SS other ranks and 60,000 SS officers.

The material in this bunker has proved a time-bomb for many a former Nazi who found it advisable to revise his past after the war.

Dutch art dealer Pieter Menten is a case in point. In 1976 a journalist accused him of mass murder as an SS officer in Poland.

Menten went on to the offensive, convinced he had bought all incriminating documents on his past. What he did not know was that the crucial documents were all in the Berlin Document Centre.

They were handed over to the Dutch State Prosecutor, who brought Menten to court. He was sentenced to fifteen years, but this sentence was reversed on appeal. Now the Duch Supreme Court must decide whether he is innocent or guilty.

The Document Centre receives 3,000 to 4,000 enquiries a month. Most come from the Federal Republic of Germany, usually from authorities who want information about applicants' pasts.

Official enquiries from the GDR are not answered, Daniel Simon, 43, head of the Document Centre, explains. But there is no way of preventing Western specialists from making enquiries on the GDR's behalf.

The upkeep of the building and the salaries of the head of the centre and the 33 other members of staff come under the heading "occupation costs."

Simon says: "I regard the material stored here as history." His "good opinion" of Germans today is not affected by his knowledge of past cruelty. His wife is German.

It was a German who ensured that most of the files were preserved. On 30 April 1945 US subaltern Ernie Langendorf found a store of files in an old paper mill near Munich.

Miller Hans Huber had been given forty tons of documents and told to shred them. But he kept and hid them.

We have Huber to thank for the Hess file in the Document Centre. An original of 21 April 1933, with Hitler's signature, says: "I appoint party comrade Rudolf Hess my deputy."

One wall of shelves contains so-called "warning cards," green or yellow cards on which offences which were not serious enough for prosecution are recorded.

Warnings were given for such things as "lack of interest, inadequate sense of duty, adultery, refusal to work."

Another shelf bulges with applications to join the party. Daniel Simon takes out some forms and says:

"Anyone who said later that he had become a party member without his knowledge is lying. The Germans were always very correct and required every would-be member to sign."

As well as black lists the Zehlendorf archives contain white lists: records of victims of racial persecution and of people expelled and sentenced by the Nazis. They are often consulted when questions of compensation arise.

Historians and official bodies are not alone in being interested in the files, which are kept dust-free as far as possible and protected against damage from the environment. Many writers have spent hours rummaging around in piles of paper ten metres underground.

Frederick Forsyth, author of *The Odessa File*, got his background information here. So did Glenn Infield, who recently wrote a book on Leni Riefenstahl.

Simon says there are no copies of the original files in the USA but 909 personal files were copied on microfilm and stored elsewhere in Berlin.

Martina Kempff

(Die Welt, 7 February 1979)

Ludwigsburg war crimes report

Adalbert Rückerl, director of the Centre for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes in Ludwigsburg, has compiled a report on its work for the Bonn government. It has just been submittel to Justice Minister Hans-Jochen Vogel.

Rückerl notes that official investigations into Nazi crimes committed in Germany did not begin until 1965, by when Nazi crimes had practically been dealt with from a legal point of view in the GDR.

So systematic prosecution of Nazi crimes did not start until half a decade after all except murder had fallen under the statute of limitations.

For many years German courts had no power to deal with the most serious Nazi crimes, because according to Allied Control Council Law 10 war crimes and crimes against peace and humanity came under Allied jurisdiction.

From 1950, when the jurisdiction of the German courts was extended, "very few official proceedings were started. State prosecutors were as a rule fully occupied dealing with day-to-day crimes."

Rückerl points out that a state prosecutor who read about a Nazi crime in the press or in books had no reason to start proceedings. First someone had to bring charges, then he could take action.

The report states that the decisive impulse for the intensification and concentration of proceedings against Nazi criminals came from a case "that had started more or less accidentally."

When a former SS Oberführer who had been whitewashed in denazification proceedings went to court to get reinstated in the civil service, a witness suddenly appeared and accused him of playing a prominent part in mass-shootings of Jews in the German-Lithuanian border area. That was in 1956.

Extensive investigations in this trial proved that "numerous grave Nazi crimes, especially ones committed in the East, had never been tried in court."

This led to the foundation of the Ludwigsburg centre. Its task was not to wait for charges to be brought but to start investigations on the basis of information received.

But only two years after it was set up manslaughter fell under the statute of limitations, leaving murder as the only crime that could still be prosecuted.

Nonetheless the number of proceedings rose dramatically. Between May 1945 and December 1977 proceedings were taken against 84,403 people. Of these, only 6,432 were sentenced, twelve to death (before the abolition of the death penalty when Basic Law came into force) and 154 to life imprisonment.

In the majority of cases no sentence was passed: either because the suspects had disappeared or because they died during or after the war. Some had already been sentenced by Allied courts.

A large number could not be tried on the grounds of age or ill-health. As in many cases entire police and SS units

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■ TAX

Service trades squeal as taxmen probe tipping

Münchner Merkur

"The taxman has latched on to tips," laments Ludwig König of the West German Hairdressers Association, Munich. Dr Frithjof Wahl of the Hotel and Innkeepers Association sadly agrees.

Tips earned by 100,000 waiters and waitresses and another 100,000 hairdressers have come under intensive scrutiny.

Even the 66,000 postmen who are tipped on delivering money and at New Year, removal men, dustmen, nurses and various tradesmen are being asked whether their tips exceed DM600 a year. Anything more is taxable.

The move has caused widespread disgruntlement and several court cases have been instituted.

The way the tax authorities see it, tips for particularly good service are in no way a tax-free gift. They are part of wages. But the Finance Ministry says it has issued no instructions to pay particular attention to tips, this being a matter for the Länder to consider.

Those concerned, however, no longer believe in coincidence. Their guilds and associations report a nationwide move to collect taxes on tips.

Estimates show that about DM1,000m worth of tips go untaxed, amounting to a total tax loss of about DM250m.

Says the Bonn Finance Ministry: "The employer calculates the withholding tax and pays it to the Internal Revenue. But it is also his duty to pay tax on tips.

"Since he cannot know exactly how much his staff collects in this way he is only able to do so if employees report that they have received more than DM50 a month or DM600 a year in gratuities."

Employers are prepared to go along to som extent. But there comes a point, especially in the catering business and among hairdressers, when they rebel.

Says Dr Wahl: "Many businesses ask their staff for a written statement that their tips have not exceeded DM50 a month. But the Internal Revenue considers this not enough."

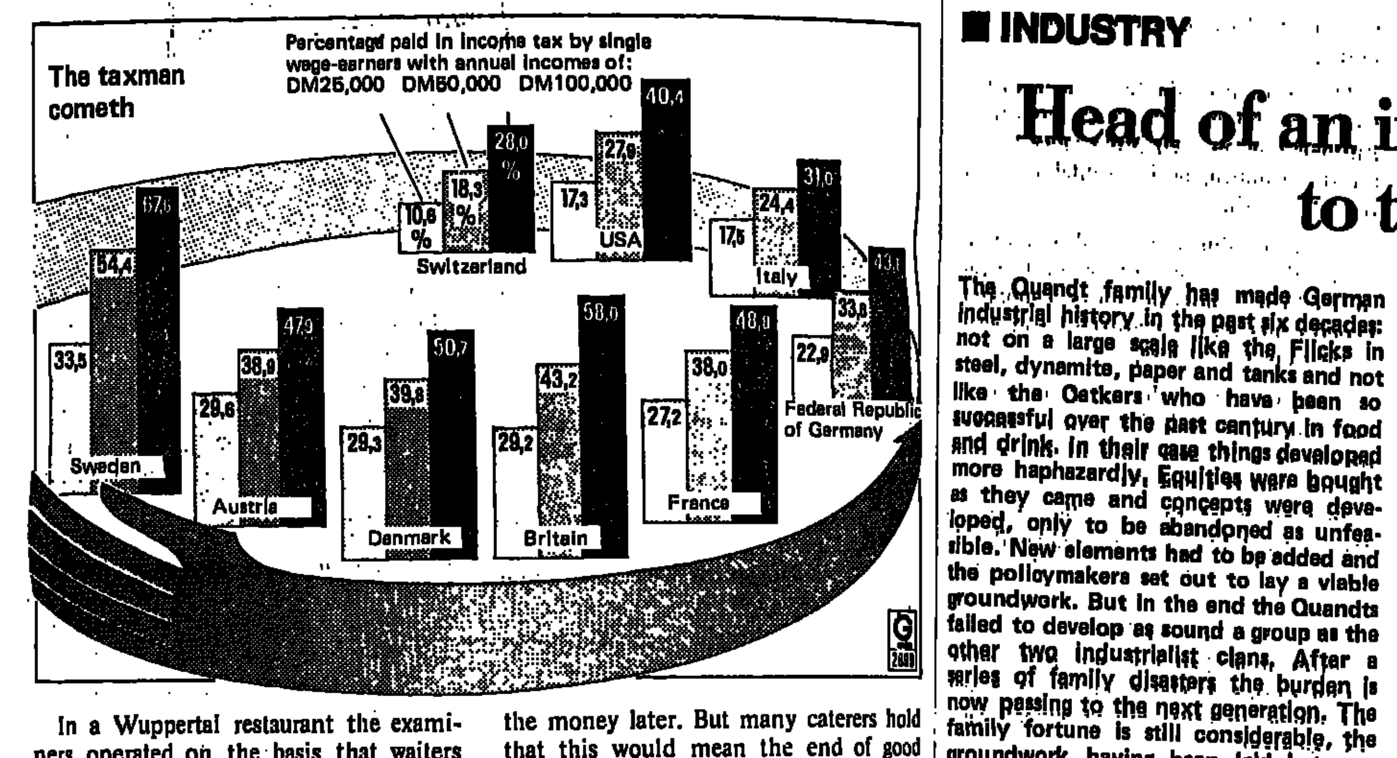
Comments the Bonn Finance Ministry: "If an employer must assume that a staff member has collected more, he has to report this to the tax office. If he fails to do so, we have recourse to him."

Herr König, representing the hairdressers, says: "What they want is to turn us into informers and deputy sheriffs."

In the course of various withholding tax audits taxmen have already demonstrated that they mean business. In several instances they have maintained that experience shows that gratuities exceed the DM600 limit and called on the employer to make good.

In a Munich hairdressing salon the auditors estimated tips at ten per cent of turnover, calling on the employer to pay an additional DM200,000 in withholding taxes.

In Duisburg they reckoned a DM1 tip per haircut could safely be assumed, demanding that a hairdresser pay an additional DM1,500 in taxes for his staff. Both cases have been taken to court.



In a Wuppertal restaurant the examiners operated on the basis that waiters receive two-and-a-half per cent of turnover in gratuities.

Since the taxmen are hard put to provide evidence of the amount of tips, flat rate settlements have in some instances been suggested.

Says Herr König: "It was proposed to us that we should operate on the assumption of tips amounting to five per cent of turnover."

The employers should add this amount to withholding tax and transfer it to the IRS. But Herr König considers this unconstitutional — if for no other reason than that different people receive different tips.

Says Dr. Wahl: "I won't give a penny to the waiter who chucks my food at me. After all, the customer only rewards good service."

Some tax offices have made a proposal to ensure a fair deal. All staff members should pool their tips and distribute the money later. But many caterers hold that this would mean the end of good service because all incentive would be removed.

Tips vary widely. Some nurses get an average of DM20 from their patients. Where hairdressers are concerned, Herr König holds: "When a haircut still cost DM3 to DM4 it was customary to tip 20 per cent. But today, when you pay between DM10 and DM12, many customers don't tip at all. Reorganisation in some businesses also has a bearing.

"In a ladies' salon there are frequently several people working on one hairdo, one doing the shampooing, another the cutting and others again do the permanent wave. But since the customer is unwilling to tip all of them she doesn't tip at all."

In the catering business tips depend on the type of restaurant or hotel, he says, adding: "It is up to the authorities to find an equitable basis for the taxing of tips."

Horst Zimmermann

(Münchner Merkur, 6 February 1979)

Ludwigsburg

Continued from page 5

were investigated man for man, there was often insufficient evidence.

Finally, it was impossible to prove the guilt of many of the accused.

Ludwigsburg does not rule out the possibility of new cases of Nazi murders coming to light. But it will be increasingly difficult to prove the guilt of the accused, because evidence of witnesses becomes increasingly unreliable as time goes by and documentary proof is seldom available.

Rückerl is sure major crimes involving large numbers of victims will no longer come to light.

His report makes no recommendations on the statute of limitations for murder. Since 1960 thousands of cases have been instituted, which means they can continue after the end of this year.

Rückerl ends his report by saying: "The chances of bringing a Nazi criminal discovered after December 31 to court are extremely slight for the reasons already mentioned — the age of the accused, increasing difficulties in investigation and proof and the relatively long time proceedings take."

Gottfried Capell

(Die Welt, 7 February 1979)

Farmers' featherbed ruffled

Bonn Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer will shortly table a Bill amending income tax regulations for farmers. The aim is to make bookkeeping compulsory for more farmers in a three-stage plan.

A survey by the Ifo economic research institute shows that most EEC countries are tax havens for farmers.

Matthöfer's plan is aimed at reducing indirect subsidies through taxation by about DM2,000m. But this is vehemently opposed by Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl, and Coalition talks will have to clarify the issue.

At present roughly one farmer in six is liable to pay tax. This figure does not apply to farm labourers, 85 per cent of whom pay.

So West German farmers are much better off than many others in EEC countries. Only Italian farmers are in an even better position.

But in comparing figures it must be taken into account that they show only the part of the income that has actually been declared.

Tax rates in other Community countries vary widely because some have opted for indirect and others for direct taxation.

According to the Ifo study, only Denmark, Britain and Holland tax farmers like other citizens, though like businessmen in general they are favoured by a number of regulations which either do not exist in German tax law or are less favourable.

These include investment funds in Denmark, up to 100-per-cent first-year depreciation for equipment in Britain and the possibility in Holland of levelling off profits and deducting pension contributions.

The other five EEC members, Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy and Luxembourg, grant farmers special privileges by estimating profits on a flat rate basis.

Only fractions of agricultural profits are liable to income tax and as a result 95 per cent of Belgian, 99 per cent of French and Luxembourg and 100 per cent of Italian and Irish farmers benefit from this system.

The difference between actual and taxed profits is greatest in Italy where only 11 per cent of gains are actually taxed compared with thirty per cent in France and fifty in Belgium.

Taxable Irish farmers pay tax on 72 per cent of profits (but only nine per cent are subject to tax) so tax accounts for 29 per cent of overall agricultural incomes.

Since the flat rate procedure has the same shortcomings that have given rise to criticism in this country, the German system does not differ widely from those in other Community countries.

The EEC nations operating on a flat rate basis show no tendency to change the system at present. In fact, tax relief for farmers is strongly supported in Denmark, Britain and Holland.

The Commission for the Assessment of Income Tax in Agriculture has called on Community members to tackle the coordination of indirect subsidies for agriculture and harmonise taxes. But it is feared in Brussels that this will take a very long time.

The Ifo researchers conclude that the decision whether the present income tax level in agriculture should be raised must be left to the politicians. It should,n however, take into account the findings arrived at by the Ifo survey.

The research institute considers financial equalisation measures for German farming indispensable as long as competition conditions differ.

The Commission holds that in amending section 13a of the Income Tax Act "German agriculture must not be placed at a disadvantage vis-a-vis foreign farming."

Harmonisation on a Community plane must also take into account that there are wide differences not only in income tax but also in capital tax in the various EEC countries.

Franz-Josef Nicola

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 2 February 1979)

■ INDUSTRY

Head of an industrialist clan hands over to the next generation

The Quandt family has made German industrial history in the past six decades: not on a large scale like the Flicks in steel, dynamite, paper and tanks and not like the Oetkers who have been so successful over the past century in food and drink. In their case things developed more haphazardly. Equities were bought as they came and concepts were developed, only to be abandoned as unfeasible. New elements had to be added and the policymakers set out to lay a viable groundwork. But in the end the Quandts failed to develop as sound a group as the other two industrialist clans. After a series of family disasters the burden is now passing to the next generation. The family fortune is still considerable, the groundwork having been laid between the wars by Günther Quandt, but his group concept is definitely a write-off.

Herbert Quandt will have turned seventy before being able to close the annals of his industrial ventures. There will be no room for a pedantic bookkeeper's view of the swift succession of events in his decades of bargaining for industrial power, money and real estate holdings.

What remains is the concern to preserve the gains, be they inherited or made, and to pass the fortune taken from others on to the next generation.

Herbert Quandt, an honorary PhD of Mainz University, has now turned over the majority holding in Varta, Europe's largest battery manufacturer, to the children of his second marriage, Sonja, 28, Sabine, 25, and Sven, 23.

So far there has been no official information on the size of Quandt's stake in Varta. Rumours estimate it at two-thirds. The balance sheet shows him as holding a nominal DM98.9m.

The stock market quotes the DM50 Varta share at DM185, or 370 per cent above nominal value. The Varta legacy is thus worth DM240m.

Through his inneritance Sven also lays claim to a seat on the supervisory board, which he will get at the 28 June AGM.

This is to serve as a high school of business under the tutorship of Hans Graf von der Goltz, who will chair the supervisory board, while Eberhard von euninger will look after day-to-day business as chairman of the board of directors.

Varta stockholders can draw but one nclusion from these events. There is w no longer one majority shareholder their company but at least three, and still Quandts.

The Quandts have so far denied there s a family pool holding these shares. en will at least hold a blocking minty of more than 25 per cent — but ails are still to be announced.

Herbert Quandt is married for the rd time and has six children. Sylvia is daughter from his first marriage. h his third wife Herbert Quandt has n (still under age) and a daughter.

e they going to be left empty-handpart from their legal due? Certainly Quandt is the majority stockholder erische Motorenwerke (BMW), Al- Ceag and Industriewerke Karlsugsburg (IWKA).

Quandt family bought their holding in BMW at a time when the Munich company was still extremely shaky, living off its motorbikes and the Isetta bubble car.

Since the V-8 of the late fifties and the subsequent 3, 5, 6 and 7 series of the past decade, the company has been extremely successful, and Harald Quandt's close friend Eberhard von Kuenheim as BMW board chairman certainly played an instrumental part in this success.

Not until the settlement between Harald's heirs and Herbert Quandt did Herbert gain control over BMW. Harald's heirs struck a bargain in return for Daimler-Benz shares.

Herbert openly admits to a 25-per-cent BMW stake although everybody knows that he is a majority stockholder.

There, too, he abides by his Quandtum theory that the public has no business to know the extent of the family fortune.

BMW shares are at present traded at 480 per cent above nominal value. The stock exchange thus estimates the company's worth at DM1,900m.

If Quandt holds sixty per cent, this holding alone is worth DM1,100m but it can be taken for granted that the books of Herbert and his clan show only one-tenth of this figure.

We only have to remember the case of Friedrich Flick who, though listing equities of only DM250m, for years had a forty-per-cent stake in Daimler-Benz.

To arrive at even an approximate estimate of Herbert Quandt's fortune it is necessary to continue with a painstaking labour of Sisyphus and dig into Altana, Ceag and IWKA.

Altana and Ceag were set up after the dividing up of Varta in 1977 which in turn originated from the merger of a variety of industrial interests ranging from Byk Gulden to Milupa and a number of metal and electrical engineering equities.

Quandt has been tinkering with companies for years. But only now, as he is turning the fortune over to his children, can the entrepreneur's nature come to rest.

Altana, a major manufacturer of pharmaceuticals and dietary foods plus chemicals, has the same share capital as Varta, DM98.9m. But its stock is traded 550 per cent above nominal, thus being valued considerably higher on the stock market than Varta. A two-thirds Quandt stake would thus have a market value of DM360m.

The same calculation applies to Ceag, a company specialised in air conditioning and electrical engineering. There, the Quandt stake amounts to DM31m.

IWKA has had to weather heavy losses. The company manufactures textile machines and is involved in the arms business, having developed the gun for the MRCA Tornado fighter.

It put the Mauser pistol into the holsters of German managers and is out of the worst, but no dividends are being paid as yet.

IWKA shares trade for about DM100, and Herbert Quandt holds seventy per cent after having relieved Harald's heirs of their equity and control in the company. Its worth is estimated at DM200m.

Though his stake in the five major companies Herbert Quandt holds stock with a market value of DM1,900m. But the books are unlikely to show more than ten per cent of this figure.

The fortune is further enhanced by numerous minority holdings, as for instance in the Bad Homburg gambling casino and considerable real estate holdings.

Herbert Quandt would now like to pass on everything to his children as quickly and inconspicuously as possible.

The disaster that befell his half brother's family was a severe blow. He was the more fortunate of the two and would now like to bring everything to a sensible conclusion.

Harald's chances were the same as Herbert's. But what has come of them and what remains? Certainly, there are a few hundred million deutschemarks in gold, shares and cash and several lesser industrial equities to be shared now by his five daughters.

For the past dozen years Harald's family has been plagued by tragedy, grief and the ambition of Dr Hans Hilmar von Halem.

He married his supervisory board member Inge Quandt in order to be able to rule without restrictions and was finally unable to come to terms with Inge's destiny, following her into death.

Large fortunes always give rise to greed in other people. It has become a tradition in Prussian-German families to "be more and seem less" and to live by Frederick the Great's axiom: "To each his own."

The Bandekows of Berlin (Inge Quandt's family), the Halems and the Quandts were raised in this tradition. But with the ascent of Nazism and the attendant accumulation of an industrial fortune this Prussian morality collapsed. What mattered henceforth was to accumulate money, power and show.

Goebbels' stepson Harald Quandt tried to do his duty after the war (together with his half-brother Herbert) by welding his own father's legacy into a major industrial empire. In September 1967, while piloting his private jet, he crashed near Turin.

Shortly thereafter, his partner Rainer Günzler took over the management of Harald Quandt's legacy. As the result of a settlement his widow Inge Quandt became a major stockholder in Daimler-Benz.

In 1974, Dr von Halem became her financial adviser, ushering in one of the greatest petrodollar transactions when Kuwait bought the Quandt equity in Daimler-Benz for DM800m.

Von Halem reduced Günzler to his natural economic size. He then proceeded to clean up at IWKA, firing Inge's brother Joachim Bandekow.

His suicide last Christmas will have no effect on the distribution of the fortune. Hilmar von Halem was not on the list of Harald-Inge heirs, Inge Quandt having obtained a waiver of inheritance rights on marrying him.

Christoph Wehnelt

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 February 1979)

Textiles magnate on trial

The trial by an Augsburg court of textile manufacturer Axel Glöggler, 36, son of Hans Göggler, who wanted to be king of textiles, tells an interesting tale.

His son is so far the only one of those responsible for driving five German textile companies with a payroll of 11,400 into financial ruin to be put on trial. The head of the group is still at large.

Dr Axel Glöggler has been charged with responsibility for speculative deals while in charge of the finances of Germany's largest textile empire until 1975, when the firm went into bankruptcy.

Millions of deutschemarks were withdrawn from subsidiaries in favour of the Augsburg-based parent company Hans Glöggler KG. The arrest warrant for the owner of the company, wanted by Interpol since 1977, puts the damage at about DM400m.

Axel Glöggler (he wrote a PhD thesis on "The Liquidity of Money" in 1972) rose within a very short time to a top position and is now charged with credit fraud and violation of laws governing company stock.

According to investigation results contained in fourteen files and several thousand pages, the company was financed exclusively by outside capital from 1969.

The method was always the same: After buying a share in a firm, the company was given loans and the thus obtained money used to buy further equities.

In this way Hans Glöggler acquired Hanfwerke Füssen-Immenstadt (HFI), Mechanische Baumwollspinnerei und Weberei Augsburg (SWA), Erba (Erlangen), Val. Mehler (Fulda) and Augsburger Kammgarnspinnerei (AKS).

According to the prosecution, his only purpose in forming foreign companies was to gain access to international capital markets.

Nimbus (Panama), Eurotextil (Luxembourg) and Glöggler Holding (Zurich) were said by the prosecution to have been formed virtually without any capital of their own.

Glöggler's son — he was arrested in his apartment in Kelkheim, Hesse, in February 1978 and has been in custody ever since — is said to have covered up for his father by issuing a guarantee in 1974 for Erba without informing the supervisory council or the board of directors as would have been his legal duty.

The 51-page indictment lists many examples of alleged deception of suppliers and banks, fraudulent extensions of bills and drafts to the tune of millions of deutschemarks and so on.

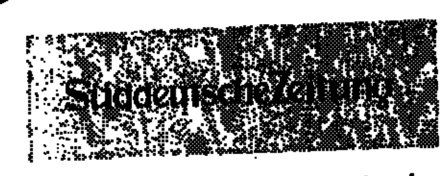
Axel Glöggler is said by the prosecution to have been trapped in a conflict of aims: to ensure the solvency of the group as a whole while guarding the interests of the subsidiaries in which he was a board member.

Instead of ensuring their existence he is said to have withdrawn their capital

Continued on page 8

■ ENVIRONMENT

Erlangen zoologist finds out how birds keep biological time in Arctic summer



Erlangen University zoologist Frans Krüll has been studying the biological clock of birds on Spitzbergen, well north of the Arctic circle, where in summer the Sun never sets.

Life in the vicinity of Longyearbyen, capital of the Norwegian Arctic island group, is hard, not to say extreme, for both man and beast.

In summer the Sun does not set for months on end. It is always light. There is no readily apparent difference between day and night.

In temperate zones light and dark are a sure sign the time has come either to get up or to go to bed. What makes the biological clock tick in the Arctic?

Tick it does, as Krüll found to his surprise. The activity, metabolism and body temperature of nearly all creatures is known to vary with the time of day, and it does on Spitzbergen too.

This daily rhythm is not dependent on the environment: it is endogenous, or unconsciously regulated by the body. Provided environmental conditions remain constant it will be maintained in a laboratory.

But the biological clock does not run at exact 24-hour intervals, which in a natural environment it must, otherwise all manner of things would go wrong.

If the biological clocks of creatures great and small did not tell the same time, insects would go their rounds of flowers only to find them still shut: no food being served.

Mating couples might miss one another too, so how does nature tell the time in Arctic summer?

Krüll went to Spitzbergen with a cage full of German finches and a grant from the Scientific Research Association to find out.

He spent an entire summer measuring ground and air temperatures, the spectral colour pattern of Arctic daylight, the intensity of light and the position of the Sun.

He also logged the activities of greenfinches he had brought with him from Germany and compared their behaviour with that of local birds.

Temperature fluctuations were too slight to serve warm-blooded animals effectively as a clock. The intensity of sunlight was unlikely to make much difference either, since it hardly varies by day or night.

Besides, birds that live in various narrow valleys where the light also varies nonetheless abide by one and the same clock, being active by day and resting at night.

Krüll found the spectral pattern, or colour temperature, to be another matter. In the morning and evening red predominates in the spectrum, at midday blue.

Experiments have shown that the activity patterns of songbirds can be synchronised by means of colour temperature.

The position of the Sun may also be a guide. In temperate zones it certainly is. Animals rely on their inner clock to offset the azimuth, or horizontal factor in the Sun's path.

Arctic creatures may also rely on landmarks and the position of the Sun to set their biological clocks. Laboratory experiments with an artificial sun seem to bear out this theory.

Compared with the clear distinction between light and dark, these natural guides to biological time in the Arctic are not readily apparent.

For much of the year they are not even around to serve as a guide. But in summer the sex hormones that peak during the mating season may make creatures more perceptive.

Birds have had sex hormones added to their drinking water and for years have responded to these weaker signals than day or night.

During the Arctic mating season animal life clearly does respond to spectral colour in arranging its daily routine. In winter it has less cause to bother observing a strict daily round.

Axel Steiger

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 31 January 1979)

On trial

Continued from page 7

basis to supply the parent company with loans.

Due to constant financial straits, the prosecution says, the company was involved in numerous real estate speculations, stock market losses and risky commodity futures deals.

Glöggler's stake in Dierig and Holzmann AG cost him DM143m, earning the concern a mere DM2m in 1974. The outside capital needed entailed interest repayments of DM10m that year.

The prosecution holds that the collapse of the group, which by mid-1974 was already excessively indebted, was protracted over several years.

The banks that had given credit were unaware of the impending disaster due to the lack of an overall balance sheet for the group.

Peter Richter

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 January 1979)

Oil slicks may cause drought

Enough oil pollutes the seven seas all year round to make headline-hitting supertanker mishaps seem insignificant, a Hamburg survey shows.

The city's oceanographic data centre evaluated about 25,000 reports sent in by ships from eight countries after the 1972 UN conference on the environment held in Stockholm.

The reports indicate that oil slicks so large they might just as well be called oilfields mark the path of most major shipping routes.

Starting next year a worldwide survey will keep a closer watch on this alarming phenomenon.

Oil pollution is worst on lanes to Europe from the Middle East and the Caribbean. Most reports were sent in from the Mediterranean, West Africa and the Caribbean.

The southern North Sea, the sea off South-Western Europe and North Atlantic shipping routes are also badly polluted, says Dieter P. Kohnke, head of the Hamburg data centre.

Off the beaten track pollution usually plummets to zero.

Last year's world oil output totalled 3,100m tons, of which 1,600m tons of crude and 200m tons of refinery products were shipped by sea.

Experts reckon marine oil pollution totals at least six million tons a year, but tanker mishaps account for only an estimated three per cent.

Thirty-two per cent is the result of ships cleaning tanks and pumping out bilges. Offshore drilling and natural seepage account for a further eleven per cent.

Forty-four per cent flows into the sea from rivers. Ten per cent is precipitated from the atmosphere.

Meteorologist Kohnke says this pollution may cause devastating, as yet unforeseeable climate changes.

Seas carpeted in oil will evaporate less, meaning less rainfall. The continental land masses would gradually be transformed into deserts.

Local catastrophes such as the break-up of the Amoco Cadiz off the coast of Brittany, France, wreak havoc on the marine food cycle from algae to birds.

Reports so far available are no more than a rough guide. Nearly 14,000 of the 25,000 reports sent in were submitted by West German ships.

They were pigeonholed in sections of the seven seas five degrees wide and five high.

Starting provisionally in mid-1979 measurements will be taken all over the world to indicate how much oil there is and whether changes occur in the degree and extent of pollution.

This project will be sponsored by the international oceanographic commission, the International Meteorological Organisation and Unesco.

Oil is only part of the marine pollution problem, albeit an important part. Pollution by heavy metals and new chemical compounds (including about 1,000 newcomers a year) is another.

Little is known about metal and chemical pollution. There is virtually no known or universally agreed method of analysing seawater to provide facts and figures.

Harro H. Müller/dpa

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 February 1979)

■ MOTORING

Women show more sense than men at the wheel

DIE WELT

Of the 22 million private cars licensed in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin, five million belong to women. No-one would have thought this possible twenty years ago when only 200,000 women owned cars. Today the woman at the wheel is taken for granted.

Contrary to the widespread view among men that women are poor drivers (an Aral survey shows that one in five men still hold this view) experts know that women in certain age groups are not only better but also more cautious and considerate drivers than men.

Men aged up to 25 are involved in two to three times as many accidents as women of the same age, says Danish sociologist Carsten Wass.

He arrives at the conclusion that if male drivers could be trained to be equally cautious accident figures would drop by twenty per cent.

Given the current accident rate, this would mean 220,000 fewer accidents a year. Men consider themselves the more sporty drivers and are therefore less careful.

They tend to tailgate, overtake recklessly and be generally impatient and less tolerant than women, who by nature are the more conciliatory drivers.

It can be observed daily on the autobahn and in city traffic that a man is less prepared than a woman to give way to an overtaking car. And when a road narrows, forcing two-lane traffic to converge, a woman is more likely to provide a space.

Women are also more polite and grateful. A man who has permitted a woman to enter a converging traffic lane is bound to earn himself a grateful smile. Not so vice versa.

H. Häcker, who has been commissioned by the Federal Transport Office in Cologne to make a survey on tailgating, has found that women maintain a safer distance and are less prepared to take risks.

They also take weather and road conditions into account, driving slower and more cautiously when conditions so demand.

Every second driver's licence today is acquired by a woman. Both men and women are eligible for a licence from the age of 18, and ownership of a car ranks first among their wishes.

Every third person, both male and female, aged between 18 and 22 would like a car to be the first major purchase.

At present more than ten million women are licensed to drive, meaning that every third licence is held by a female.

The Aral study also shows that more women than men actually enjoy driving. This comes as a surprise. The study also shows that there is no such thing as a typical woman driver."

Not surprising is the fact that, when buying a car, women like to obtain male advice. Only one in 100 women changes the oil herself, compared with thirty per cent of men.

Even in a self-service filling station women like to have a competent attendant at hand. They survey shows that women are more interested in prompt and friendly service and expert advice. More women than men have their regular filling stations.

In families, women usually drive the smaller car. Their own car must require little maintenance, be compact, practical and easy to park.

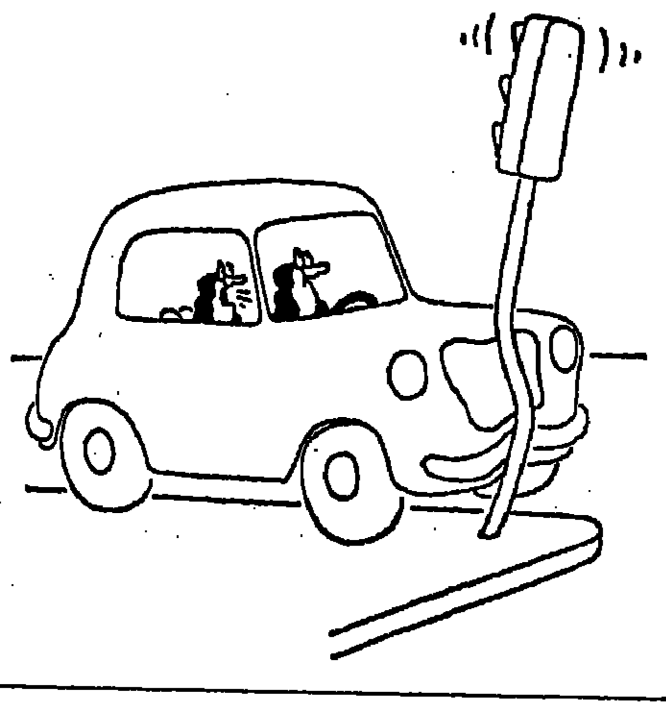
Only one in five woman drivers have a car of more than 1700cc (one in three men). Thirty-two per cent of women drive a car of up to 1200cc (male percentage twenty-one).

The daydreams of women concerning cars came as a surprise:

- Forty-three per cent would like to reach their vacation destination driving a Porsche (the interviewers did not ask whether with or without male escort).
- One in three women would like to go to town in a chauffeur-driven Rolls.
- One in four would like to drive (or be driven) in a car equipped with telephone, TV and a bar. Only seven in 100 men expressed the same wish.

Women are also catching up with regard to annual mileage. In 1977, men averaged 13,750 kilometres while women drove 11,150. This means that men are only 2,600 kilometres ahead. Four years ago the difference was close to 4,000 kilometres.

Women are also much less prone to losing their licence. Fewer women than men commit serious traffic offences and the number of female culprits is below the proportionate increase in the number of female drivers. Moreover, offences committed by women are of a minor nature such as wrong parking, disregard for the right of way (probably trusting in female charm) and speeding in city traffic. The incidence of driving under the influence of alcohol is much higher among men. When intoxicated men tend to overtake without seeing what is ahead of them, they disregard double lines and red lights.



'Just step on it when the light turns green'

(Cartoon: Liebermann/Augsburger Allgemeine)

Women virtually never lecture men who have made a mistake, but young female drivers with little driving practice and a penchant for speeding like to use their lights for signalling — perhaps as a result of uncertainty and apprehension about their speed.

Generally, the reputation of woman motorists among their male counterparts is not too bad. Fifty-nine per cent of male drivers consider women equally competent.

Questions on women's attitudes to motoring in the Aral survey show that women are somewhat more reserved towards the car.

Thirty-two per cent are frequently "genuinely afraid of being involved in an accident," compared with only thirteen per cent of male drivers, who usually show a greater familiarity with their cars.

The attitudes towards the 30-kilometre speed limit in residential areas are also interesting: 57 per cent of women with children are in favour, compared with only 43 per cent of those without children.

Thirty-nine per cent of fathers are in favour of the speed limit compared with 34 per cent of men without children. Of these, sixty per cent consider the speed limit superfluous or stupid.

The car is far from being the most important thing in a woman's life, only nine per cent having named the automobile as their main interest. But for forty per cent of men it takes absolute priority.

F. Gert Pohle

(Die Welt, 5 January 1979)

Munich course to overcome fear of flying

The first thing the participants in the one-week course to overcome fear of flying were told by Flight Captain Herbert Wagner was:

"We don't even attempt to take off in weather like this, and icing up of the aircraft itself is a thing of the past. In any event, we usually fly high above such miserable weather."

Thus began the course in which twelve men and women were to reduce and possibly overcome their fear of flying. They were hand picked from among more than 150 by the Munich Institute for Integrated Therapy. None had ever flown, though all would like to do so.

Said Ursula, one of the young participants: "I'm sick and tired of doing everything to avoid flying. One day I'll be eighty and I still won't have seen anything of the world."

The participants get on to first name terms instantly. Peter, a family man whose son has had experience with flying and now feels very superior, would love to see America.

Says Norbert Müller, a Lufthansa spokesman: "There are more people suffering from fear of flying than is usually assumed."

Surveys show seventy per cent of passengers are afraid to differing degrees. Many try to overcome their fear by drinking on board, having already spent many a sleepless night before take-off. Some, who have booked and paid for a flight, fail to show up.

Few people can pinpoint the cause of their fear. Some of the participants in the course attribute it to past experience — two had been involved in road accidents and one, Dagmar, saw a burning bomber during the war. Norbert once panicked when he had swum too far away from his rowing boat.

Such cases require more psychological help than those who simply feel that they are at the mercy of technology and inanimate matter since even "my pressure cooker could explode," as one of the women put it.

A lecture by Captain Wagner, a film showing the triple safety system in aircraft and a simulated flight to Australia helped to relieve some of the fear.

Some people are afraid of falling ill or having a heart attack in flight. But there, too, Captain Wagner allayed the fears by telling them that all cabin staff have had training in first aid.

Pan Am is even contemplating giving its 900 pursers and 4,000 stewards training in heart massage. The US Health Department supports this move, which would impart a greater feeling of being cared for.

The anti-fear course is based on an American pilot project. It will be recorded on video tape in Munich and televised by the WDR network on 18 May. This will be supplemented by a book on the subject.

The programme has been developed by Munich psychologists. It is based on the idea that "unpleasant thoughts should be taken to their conclusion."

There is nothing wrong with passengers even going so far as to think of dying — something that men find particularly hard.

Gertrud, who suffers from claustrophobia, is trying to do exactly that, saying: "I've always thought I'd go round the bend but I've never gone so far as to imagine what it would be like."

Said Dagmar: "Maybe it's only the fear of one's own apprehension of boarding a plane that causes it all."

Another participant arrived at the conclusion: "There are so many banal fears that plague us today. But in this era of the jet, fear of flying cannot be normal."

Everything was aired and talked out at the course. In the final evaluation sheet the participants' answers when asked to imagine specific situations ranging from the preparation for the flight to actual boarding were somewhere between "no fear" and "panic."

Further improvements are achieved by taking a deep breath and relaxing.

Thus morally buttressed the twelve participants will board a Lufthansa Boeing 737 at Munich's Riem Airport and for the first time try to enjoy the limitless freedom of flying.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 27 January 1979)

■ **ARTS**

Do it yourself breathes life into arts scene

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The Podium is a recently-opened small theatre in a disused factory in Altona, an inner suburb of Hamburg. The director of the theatre, which seats 199, is Horst Reckers, an actor who worked at the city's Deutsches Schauspielhaus from 1968 to 1972.

The stage for the opening performance consisted of Coca-Cola crates, the lighting came from the lumber-room of the Deutsches Schauspielhaus and the seats were donated by a rich patron.

This is a fine example of it still being possible to start from scratch and run a theatre against competition from established theatres, without any financial support or state subsidies and even without private capital.

Reckers intends to work with actors who can afford to perform for nothing (these include Christa Berndl of the Schauspielhaus, well known for her part in Küchenlieder (Kitchen Songs) and Nicole Heesters of the Thalia Theater, recently to be seen in the Tucholsky Evenings.

Reckers will share the takings with less known and therefore less well-off actors. Later he would like to direct himself. His first project will probably be Tennessee Williams' Glass Menagerie.

The opening performance at the Podium was, unusually for Hamburg, a controversial and spontaneous mixture of talent show and testimonial, cabaret and folklore, artistic and poetic theatre.

Reckers invited everyone who wanted to take part to a kind of march-past and about fifty turned up. Among them were Iris Born of the Schauspielhaus with a fine rendering of the monologue from Jean Cocteau's The Liar.

Then came the Theater zwischen Tür und Angel with a poetic-absurd interlude (playing members of and speaking to the audience), the street theatre group Wunderwurm with an ironic sketch about the "automatic housewife" and two musicians from the Kleines Theater, Lübeck, who happened to be at the performance.

The audience's interest in this performance was overwhelming and confirmed that the basic tendency of the Podium is right.

Excessively preferential treatment is given to state theatres (subsidies in 1977 DM71m or 58 per cent of Hamburg's arts budget) in comparison with private theatres, which only get two per cent of the budget though their seating capacity is just as large.

So there is little hope of newly-founded theatres getting money from public funds. The unjust distribution of subsidies means there are only two possibilities: resignation or self-help.

Reckers, like many others recently, has opted for self-help. Rarely have so many unsubsidised and non state-aided productions been put on in Hamburg as in the last few months.

The International Order of Good Templars recently opened the city's first teetotal communication centre. The suburb of Stellingen has its own communication centre, which offers mainly self-representation and improvisation workshops.

Nearby, actors have for some months been producing children's theatre in which children can themselves take part. The Druckerei, in which anyone who likes can act, make pottery, toys and do printing, has been set up in a back yard in Hamburg-Hamm.

In Eppendorf, Hamburg's equivalent of Munich's Schwabing, a young "Creative Group Painting, Photography, Text" is looking for laymen and autodidacts to take part.

New pubs are set up almost daily in which poets can regularly read their work, singers can sing chansons, chamber and opera-singers sing arias and small ensembles play chamber music.

Although many of these self-help projects may not have a very great life expectancy, this development is encouraging and indeed vital for the cultural life of the city.

Jürgen Schmidt

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 26 January 1979)



Moritz de Hadeln (Photo: dpa)

New director of Berlin film festival

West Berlin Arts Senator Dieter Sauberzweig was in a good mood, visibly glad to have solved the problem of the Film Festival for the time being.

Now he has found not only a new festival director but also a new structure for the festival. Dr Sauberzweig described both "with justifiable optimism" as a "step forward."

The new man, Moritz de Hadeln, 38, was born in England and raised in Switzerland. Since 1969 he has been director of the Lyon short documentary film festival.

From 1972 to 1977 he was director of the Locarno International Film Festival, from which he resigned for tactical reasons, though without achieving his aim of making structural changes.

So he is a man who knows the international film festival scene well, which, given the short time has has left before starting his new job (his predecessor Wolf Donner leaves on 1 May) is an advantage.

Tall, with slightly curly dark hair and rather soft features, de Hadeln is different in appearance from his future partner, Ulrich Gregor, 46, who has been director of the Young Film Forum of the Berlin Film Festival since 1971.

Gregor is a slim, intellectual with light, thin hair and glasses. He will in future have a status equal to that of the film competition.

The forum will be the second "leg" of the festival, separate from the main competition. The time of rivalry between the two events will then, it is hoped, be past.

"One event will not steal the 'juicy bits of meat' from in front of the other's nose. The magic word is cooperation. There will be coordination on the organisational level (advertising, looking after guests and the press) and in terms of side-events.

The idea is to avoid parallel presentations, such as a double presentation of contemporary German films.

Each director will be exclusively responsible for his event, the competition and the forum. The "contentual tension" which positively characterises the Berlin International Film Festival will thus be maintained," as it says in German officialese.

De Hadeln explains: "There is no such thing as a commercial and a non-commercial film but on the other hand one cannot say that there is only one

Continued on page 11

Photographer Wols finds fame at last

The painter Wolfgang Schulze, known as Wols, died in Paris in 1951 at the age of 38, poor but highly rated by his friends. His life and work are surrounded by many legends, hymns of praise and certainly also by many misconceptions.

Some of his painter colleagues and critics even said that Wols' work heralded the dawning of a new era in painting.

What they meant was the informal: the art of the spontaneous, unreflected gesture, explosive colour spectra, troubled surfaces and unending opticism.

Wols, who learnt the technique of strictly composed art at the Bauhaus, did not like cool, geometrical pictorial worlds.

During the war he produced small-format drawings reminiscent of the fantasies of Paul Klee or the oppressive dreams of Franz Kafka.

Wols soon broke with the unreal structures of pure representation and from then on relied on automatic use of colours and signs, moving into areas which illustrate a chaotic psyche as much as the poetry of the trance.

With his photo-camera, Wols sometimes seems like a cunning voyeur or a serious-minded archaeologist looking for evidence.

That he was by profession a photographer and not a painter was not discovered until photography began to be accepted as a major art form.

The Wuppertal von der Heydt Museum held an exhibition of his photographic work in 1978 which later went on tour to other towns.

Wols as Photographer was the title of an extended touring exhibition first shown in Hanover and since shown in several other German towns.

It is now showing at the Ludwig Museum in Cologne, the last stop on its tour for the time being. This exhibition contains a large number of photographs and drawings.



1937 Wols photo of Paris fashion show Pavillon d'Elégance in Harper's Bazaar (Photo: Katalog)

Wols worked as a photographer for sixteen years, in which time he produced an astonishingly large body of work. From 1941 until his death he concentrated almost exclusively on painting and drawing and so he neglected the reworking of his photographic experiences.

Only a few of his original photographs are still available. The vast majority of his work has been reproduced from negatives recently.

This hardly reduces their authenticity but it lessens their artistic quality because Wols might possibly only have wanted to keep part of the whole, cutting out other parts.

The individual photos, undated, can be distinguished from one another by their patina and the traces of white usually found when photos are reproduced in large laboratories.

As a photographer, Wols reacts to the artistic movements of his age. He proves himself to be a reliable observer of new-objective, surreal, abstract and informal modes of seeing. He cannot be pinned down to any one artistic philosophy.

With the existential philosophical consciousness of his contemporaries, he projects his doubts about reality, his weltschmerz and his vulnerability into his work.

The subjects seem to be from a twilight world between sleep and consciousness. The world of objects is sick, the cities seem cold and empty, a frightening silence pervades the back yards, a painfully intense blinding light shines on the shiny wet pavements.

Strange fragments such as parts of bodies, broken dolls, dead birds are Wols' negative symbols of the living, witnesses of his shattered belief in an intact world.

In his portraits Wols concentrates on his own circle of friends. The considerable number of still lifes he produces shows his interest in the insignificant.

His abhorrence of tinsel, masquerade and hypocrisy was certainly one of the reasons why Wols, a true photographic artist, frightened off potential customers and could only manage to eke out a very meagre existence with his photography.

Werner Krüger

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 January 1979)

■ **EDUCATION**

Anti-educator Ekkehard von Braunmühl

Anti-educators as they call themselves do not want "to tell children what to do, at most we want to advise them about what they can do, we do not want to keep them on strings, we want to treat them as friends, we therefore do not want to change them but to accept them as they are."

They believe that children have their own definite personalities, just like adults. Of course they need help, but only if they ask for it. What they don't need is education.

Anti-educators argue that education (and by this they mean all forms of education, including non-repressive, emancipatory and anti-authoritarian education) always involves an attempt to make something out of the child, to guide it in a direction it may not want to go.

Anti-educator Ekkehard von Braunmühl writes in his book *Zeit für Kinder* (Time for Children) in the Fischer paperback series that education "sees children as pupils, as the objects of education, as immature beings and not as beings in their own right."

Anti-educators have a diametrically opposite point of view: children should be adults' friends. "I can trust a friend. I go to him when I need him. He has time for me. He tells me when he is pleased with me and he tells me when I am too much trouble to him.

"We have nothing to hide from one another. I can tell him my wishes freely. We can go together through thick and thin. We may have a row or feel hurt but we can then make up. I can be sad with my friend, cry, laugh, be happy." One does not educate friends, one helps them.

Adults would then treat their child friends just like they treat adult friends. They would not, for example, say "why have you spilt the milk again?" They would offer to help wipe it up.

They would not force children to help them do certain things but ask them. They should allow them to have untidy rooms if they can live with untidiness.

"If it is right to reasonable and honest, then the person who is put out by the untidiness should clean up," Braunmühl writes.

Anti-educators also reckon adults should not force their views on children. They should not for example say "No, there is no God," but always point out there are many views on many things ("some people think there is a God, some people think there isn't") or simply say they don't know.

They believe parents should not constantly repress their children's feelings ("stop crying, you cry baby") but stop to consider the reason for these responses "because children's outbursts of emotion always have their objective reasons and are justified."

They think adults should refrain from always telling children things and instead teach them how they can learn things for themselves. "Telling is often an obstacle to learning and often prevents it."

Braunmühl works with others in the West German Society for the Protection of Children where he is trying to win a majority for his viewpoint.

He also thinks adults must stop pretending to children — for example that they never row or that they love the child when they do not.

He argues that "the fear that undiluted truth hurts children is unjustified. Children always notice anyway if something is wrong." By attempting to hide quarrels or problems from them, one is merely preventing children from learning to cope.

Anti-educators advise parents who wish to adopt their proposals: "When you feel it is all getting too much for you, then do not put up with it.

"Trouble with the neighbours, damage to property, aggressiveness, taking advantage — no one expects you to sacrifice yourselves for your children."

As education is mostly inspired by fear (fear the child will hurt itself or something might happen to it, fear for the child's future), anti-educators advise parents who want to adopt an "anti-educational approach" to think first about what worries them when think about their children.

They give the example of a mother who wants to drop her role as educator but is extremely worried that her daughter could have a bicycle accident.

Up to now she has played the part of the educator, warning, threatening, scolding. Now, whenever she feels afraid because her daughter asks if she can ride to her friends, she just says:

"I am fed up of educating and torturing you, giving you permission to do this and forbidding you to do that. I want to get away from this role. What can I do to get rid of my fear that you might have an accident on your bike?"

In other words, parents should tell children about their feelings when they know the children are doing certain things.

Braunmühl assures parents "the more openly you discuss your fears, the more readily they will disappear." And: children who are free or will become free "have fewer modes of behaviour which hurt themselves or others."

The difference in parental behaviour between then (with education) and now (without education) is illustrated by two examples which Braunmühl gives.

Then, parents would have said: "Tomorrow I want you to be so and so and to do this and that." Today we say: "I don't want you to be unhappy, disappointed or to get into difficulties tomorrow."

Claudia Michels

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 January 1979)

Toy library: a village teacher's idea that really caught on

In November 1970 teacher Ute Buresch in Quickborn, near Hamburg, had the idea of setting up a spieliothek, or toy library.

Her two children, like most others, only played with their new toys for a while. Their cars and games then lay around for a while or were given away.

In a talk with local Young Socialists she got the idea of a toy-lending centre run on the same principles as a library — and this idea was put into practice.

Since then the Land government in Kiel has recognised the project as a pilot scheme. A National Toy Library Association has been set up in Hamburg and in Schleswig-Holstein, the most northerly Land in Germany, there are now seven such schemes, including a mobile library for children living in villages.

Quickborn spieliothek recently published a report of its activities. On average about 53 children a day come along, of whom about 22 take toys home.

The children who borrow toys are aged between six and twelve, the lower social groups are under-represented because they do not have many toys and, most important, do not have enough space to play indoors.

The organisers of the Quickborn spieliothek are thinking about further development of the idea. The original library has developed in the past years from being just a lending centre to a play centre and lending centre.

They plan a combination of activities concerned with children and youth work. The work in Quickborn at the moment is voluntary, the scheme is financed by membership fees and local council subsidies.

In Tarp, a small town north of Schleswig, the combination of spieliothek and library has proved successful. For the country around Quickborn there is a mobile toy library, a van that does the rounds of the villages once a fortnight.

Its stock of toys is worth about DM30,000 and it regularly visits ten villages with populations ranging from 500 to 3,000.

The Quickborn spieliothek is a registered club. The organisers are considering buying new toys worth about DM50,000 for a new institution to be set up in two to three years' time — on the basis of ten per cent of stock needing to be replaced each year.

The Spieliothek Club reckon the ideal solution for a spieliothek of this size would be one full-time teacher and one civilian service worker. This would of course cost at least DM30,000 per year — which they have not got.

At the moment the 160 members pays DM24 per year membership fee, old paper collection brings in DM3,000 and other events such as children's parties bring in DM2,000.

The group have over the years acquired a good deal of competence in judging toys — indeed toy manufacturers even bear this in mind when designing and producing toys.

The idea of using second-hand toys has not stood up in practice and the organisers now buy educationally valuable new toys.

For a while the spieliothek lent mechanical toys such as model trains, cars with electric motors and motor-powered cranes. Although these toys were very popular with children, the experiment of lending them was not a success because these toys can go wrong so easily.

They are still loaned, but children have to play with them at the library, which they can only do if they have taken part in the railway and motorway course, in which the models are explained to them.

At the end, children take a little test — for example in driving several railway engines accident-free. They then get a licence signed by themselves and their instructor and can play with model train sets on their own.

The organisers soon realised the importance of the little plastic balls used to separate swimming lanes in Denmark. Experiments at Copenhagen Teacher's Training College showed that a room full of these air-filled soft plastic balls is a superb playground for children.

They soon ordered four cubic metres of theses balls. In their report we read: "Little children from two on were thrilled to be able to play with so many balls at once. The bigger children jump into them and hide themselves beneath them.

"They have fights with them, but these are taken in the best of spirits. The only people with inhibitions about this are adults and teenagers."

The women who run the Quickborn spieliothek soon found they had to offer the children courses, that playing alone was not enough. Now a boat-builder and a carpenter teach children woodwork and above all how to build model ships. Another group makes clay models.

Of course there are also difficult children, because children bring their prejudices and aggression with them. When conflicts occur, attempts are made to mend matters by talking to the children.

But this is not only possibility. If a child is continually troublesome, it may have to be banned from the spieliothek for a day. Up to now only one child has been banned altogether for stealing.

Hannelore Asmus

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 January 1979)

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kind of film and only one kind of public."

Gregor says that "the polarity between the competition and the forum must remain. But on the new basis we can give the festival more conciseness, free it from certain contradictions and paradoxes."

The Berlin Festival organisers are unworried by the news that Munich is also planning to hold a film festival. De Hadeln says: "I don't like the word competition. I am more in favour of cooperation."

Ulrich Gregor explains: "We have been living with the film festivals in Mannheim and Oberhausen for years. I do not see why we need to fear Munich."

And Senate film commissioner Struve said that the winter films, which are so important for the Berlin festival, would be out of the question for the autumn film festival in Munich.

De Hadeln will take part in this year's festival which begins on February 29 and was organised by his predecessor Wolf Donner. He will officially take up his new post on 1 May or 1 June.

He has not yet worked out a concept for the festival. He wants to build on what festival founder Bauer and his successor Donner have done. The A-status will at all events be maintained.

Many critics in Berlin were disappointed at the lack of a definite concept, even though Donner had no ready-made concept when he came to Berlin three years ago.

Donner put his ideas over at the time rather more brilliantly than de Hadeln, whose German is still rather faltering.

But linguistic difficulties tell us very little about his qualifications for the post. After all, Donner, despite his brilliance at formulating, resigned after three years.

From de Hadeln we expect that in cooperation with Gregor he will show rather more perseverance in the difficult festival business, which is constantly threatened because of competition and the mediocre standard of some films.

Liselotte Müller

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 February 1979)

■ HEALTH

Virologists review common cold at Cologne congress

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The Third Interdisciplinary Forum of the West German Medical Association on Progress and Further Education in Medicine was held in Cologne recently.

It provided virologists with a chance to air their latest findings on the common cold.

The erudite experts naturally referred to what the man-in-the-street calls a cold as "banal virus infections."

They are further defined as inflammations of the respiratory system aggravated by exposure and other factors.

The common cold is probably the most widespread disease known to mankind, yet doctors-to-be learn virtually nothing about it during training.

What they get to see in university clinics are usually rare afflictions, not the millions of people with a dripping nose who will one day crowd their surgeries.

It could of course be argued that colds can be neglected in medical training because there is nothing to be done about them anyway. They will take seven days if treated and a week if left alone.

For one, they affect not only the respiratory system but are also known to cause intestinal flu. Also there is a possibility of complications that must not be neglected.

The Cologne forum made it its goal to work towards the abolition of obsolete methods which are not only ineffective but can be outright dangerous.

There are thousands of cold cures, understandably so since no therapy that would get at the root of the evil is known. Yet therapy should be possible in principle, as Cologne virologist Professor Hans Eggers pointed out.

Instead of tackling the roots, everybody keeps experimenting with ways and means of providing relief.

Some doctors prescribe antibiotics in the full knowledge that they are effective only against bacteria, which account for a mere ten per cent of respiratory catarrhs.

In the case of the windpipe and the bronchial tubes bacteria only enter the picture once the mucous membranes have already been damaged by viruses, said Mainz lung specialist professor Rudolf Ferlinz.

These bacterial complications are recognisable even to the layman by the pus in the sputum. Only when a cough has become chronic and comes in spasms does it require intensive treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent lung damage.

By and large, Professor Ferlinz stressed, catarrhs of the respiratory system require no treatment. Doctors may, however, have to reduce excessively high fever, combat pain and do something about the cough.

He advised against the favourite home remedy of treating colds with hot toddies and other alcoholic beverages which could easily turn a simple cold into pneumonia.

Freiburg paediatrician Professor Helmut Helwig came up with advice for parents, saying most infections of the respiratory system in small children are viral.

The severity of the illness depends on the extent of viral infection and on the child's own powers of resistance or its inability to ward off the infection because it had little exposure to viruses or bacteria and was thus unable to develop an immunity.

Professor Helmut Stickl, head of serological research at Munich Technical University, had advice on how to improve resistance to disease.

He pointed out that it was impossible to vaccinate against the hundreds of different viruses that can cause colds. Vaccination is only possible against viruses causing genuine influenza, though this is not really necessary for young and healthy people.

In fact, vaccination was only advisable for problem patients, primarily older people, and should be given to children only if they are particularly prone to infections.

A normal child usually averages six banal infections in the first year, four to five in the third and fourth and two to three in the tenth to fourteenth years.

Breast-fed children show more resistance.

There seems little point in removing the tonsils of a child susceptible to colds, Professor Stickl said, supporting this contention by an American survey.

A one-time administration of immune globulin is only advisable for particularly susceptible children – usually only children who have been over-protected.

Such children have usually been kept out of kindergartens and denied contacts with playmates. They go to school with an "untrained immunity system" and are therefore harder hit by infections.

As Professor Stickl put it, "they lack not only psychological but also immunological socialisation."

In other words, parents do their children no favour by keeping them from playing with neighbourhood kids.

Professor Klaus-Ditmar Bachmann, head of Münster University paediatric clinic, supplemented this advice by advocating the tried and proven exposure training: daily showers of alternating hot and cold water.

But what is to be done if a child has caught a cold? No drug, Professor Helwig said, can shorten the course of the illness. Medication against swollen nasal mucous membranes that obstruct breathing must be used with caution, especially with infants.

Some medications (primarily those containing menthol) have been known to lead to fatal respiratory arrest. A much better course of action is to provide adequate moisture in the air, thus preventing the mucous membranes from drying up and nose and bronchial secretions from liquefying.

Another useful method is vapour inhalation, though this can be administered to children only after a certain age.

Professor Helwig expressed doubts about the usefulness of lozenges, mouthwashes and various vitamins. He criticised the reckless use of so-called anti-flu drugs regardless of age.

It was not only because of the risk involved in any treatment with drugs but also the high cost of a drug of which the effectiveness is still unproved.

There was a controversy over the usefulness of measures to reduce fever, some participants asking themselves whether the harm thus done was not greater than the good.

In the case of infants fever reduction can become as dangerous as the drugs used in achieving it. Moreover, fever promotes the production of the immunological substance interferon by the body.

Fever can only be an acute risk element if it exceeds 41 centigrade. According to Professor Ferlinz fever should only be combated from 39 centigrade.

Hamburg paediatrician Professor Rolf Grüttner, who read a paper on frequent viral intestinal diseases in children, warned against drug abuse.

Rotavirus enteritis, primarily affecting infants and small children, usually begins with vomiting and diarrhoea, followed by fever. The course of the illness, which occurs primarily in winter, is usually light and responds well to dietary measrues.

Children should have a considerable liquid intake (such as tea with a five-per-cent dextrose solution) and they should have plenty of fruit and vegetable soups because their pectin content retards intestinal inflammation.

For infants under three months Professor Grüttner recommends a soft rice diet. In light cases children can be given their usual food in smaller quantities plus small amounts of banana whipped into a cream. He opposes the use of drugs in simple cases.

Rosemarie Stein

(Der Tagesspiegel, 3 February 1979)

Milk: poison in the pint allegations

"German milk on the table makes tired men more able," says an advertising slogan. But since a Hesse scandal about poison found in milk, consumers have been worried drinking it might make them sick.

This fear has been substantiated by scientists. At a Stuttgart University symposium they asked whether the increasing content of dangerous chemicals in milk will eventually make it undrinkable.

The public's fears seem justified, but what to drink now even beer is claimed to contain carcinogenic substances?

The environmental scandal in Hesse has been known to the authorities for two years. Chemists at the Agricultural Testing Centre found excessive concentrations of lindan, a pesticide, in milk.

But their findings dissipated en route through official channels. As a result, the full extent of the scandal has only jut become known.

This is not the only case. A similar situation arose in the south-west in autumn 1972 when a French factory manufacturing lindan polluted the air. The wind carried the toxic substances to neighbouring Baden.

In spring 1973 the authorities had to ban Baden milk and cows had to be slaughtered. The French factory was later fined DM263,000 in damages.

Farmers in Gernsheim, Hesse, may also have to slaughter their animals though in this case the culprit is still unknown.

The basic concern for scientists is not individual, scattered cases of milk contamination but the fundamental question of how much toxic residue there is in milk in general.

The symposium discussed the idea that poisonous substances with which fields and meadows are treated remain effective over decades and become part of the food cycle.

Cattle feed on the contaminated grass the poison eventually reaching omnivorous man via the meat he eats and the milk he drinks.

At the end of the chain is the breast-fed infant who gets the highest dosage of all.

This was proved at the symposium by Professor Heeschen of the Milk Research Centre at the Institute of Hygiene.

From 3,000-odd tests of chemical substances in milk he found that contamination has reached a certain level and stabilised. But this applies only to cow's milk, which is still just drinkable.

It does not apply to mother's milk where contamination exceeds tolerable limits. The concentration of insecticides in mother's milk is five to ten times greater than in cow's milk. This finding tallies with tests carried out by the Scientific Research Association.

Mother's milk is also heavily contaminated by chemical compounds used in water softeners and insulating material.

Even so, the Scientific Research Association unanimously advocates breast-feeding because of the high nutritional value of mother's milk.

But scientists who attended the Stuttgart symposium disagreed, saying there was a time bomb ticking away in mother's milk.

Egmont R. Koch

(Die Welt, 30 January 1979)

■ REFUGEES

Vietnamese boat people get used to Germany

The temperature is eight degrees below freezing. The house is surrounded by snow a metre high, in which igloos and holes have been made to form a labyrinth.

Foreign-looking children in anoraks and snowsuits are at play. The fun of playing in the snow almost makes them forget that back home temperatures in winter never fall below 27 centigrade.

These are children from Vietnam, who only six weeks ago were near to death by exhaustion on the refugee ship *Hai Hong*.

Their parents sit in a small room carefully repeating the words of their blonde German teacher: "Trinken Sie Kaffee? – Wi tinken geinen Gaffee; Sprechen Sie Deutsch? – Wi spechen vietnamesisch."

The scene is Lower Saxony's tax school, a turn-of-the-century building renovated in 1953; this is where middle-ranking tax officials are initiated into the secrets of tax law.

Hohegeiss is an air-cure centre 600 metres above sea-level, which makes it one of the coldest places in Lower Saxony. This is where the Land government is accommodating 89 of the 1,007 Vietnamese refugees Land Prime Minister Ernst Albrecht gave permission to settle.

Another 71 are living a few houses down the road in the Caritas home; 146 are living in nearby Bad Grund, 160 in Bad Sachsa, 82 in a private home in Winsen an der Luhe and 153 in Norddeich on the East Frisian coast.

There are still 302 refugees at Friedland refugee camp and another 107 are in hospital.

If one compares the terrifying pictures from the *Hai Hong* with the scenery in Hohegeiss it is easy to understand the contented, indeed almost happy faces of the people one sees here.

The atmosphere is as cosy as in a holiday boarding house: in one corner of the bright dining room three giggling girls are working at a sewing machine, in an ante-room some teenagers are playing chess and parents look happily out of the window and watch their children playing in the snow.

Heinrich Brandes, an organiser in the government director's office, is in charge of the operation. His view of the refugees: "They are are all solid people, threre are no difficulties."

Brandes is thoroughly enthusiastic about the people entrusted to his care: "We would all do well to copy some of their mentality." He is assisted by Herr Melchert, quartermaster of Braunschweig police flying squad, who is now responsible for the refugees' menu.

More rice than is usual in this country is served here and more curry and pepper are used. At full and new moon Nasi Goreng without meat is served for religious reasons, otherwise plenty of fowl and pork are eaten.

Twenty children get free skiing lessons from a local instructor who also provides equipment free. When the refugees arrived, there were many offers of help.

An appeal for donations in the local paper raised DM40,000 in a short time. Besides this, two large washing machines and other useful household objects were also donated.

The money was used to buy a rice pot, an iron and a radio for each family. Everyone got some money: small children DM5, heads of family DM90.

As soon as the refugees arrived in Hohegeiss, Heinrich Brandes, interpreter Nguyen, a horticulture student from Hanover, and some refugees founded a cultural committee which organised a kind of rough and ready occupational therapy for the refugees.

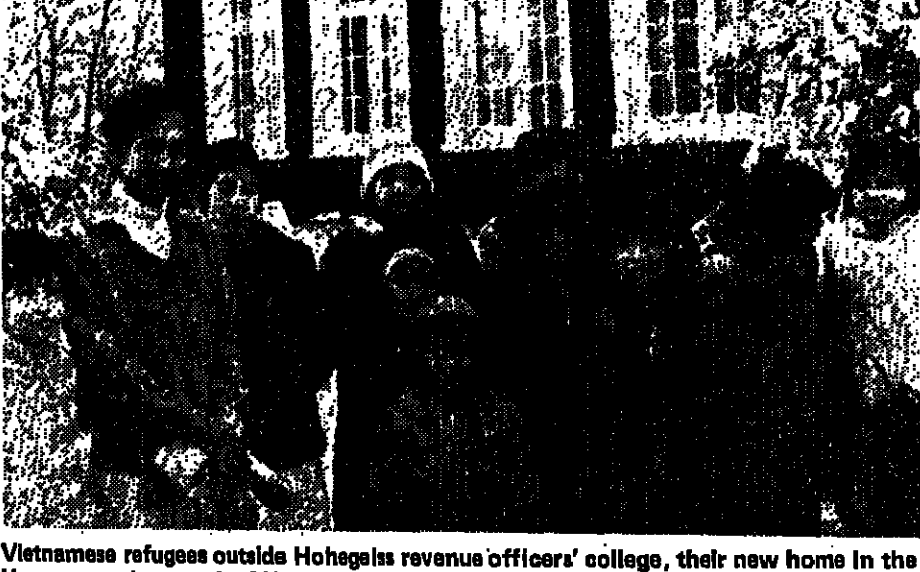
It ranged from going to the dentist to swimming in the Panoramic, a de-luxe nearby hotel, flute lessons, chess and German lessons given by Nguyen.

The committee was later disbanded because of internal rivalries – everyone wanted to be on the executive. Now language courses have begun at Goslar Volkshochschule. The refugee children go to Hohegeiss primary school.

The majority of the refugees come from the Saigon Chinatown of Cholon, where the men worked mainly as craftsmen or tradesmen.

Truong Hon Quyen, 42, said he had had a small wine shop. He managed to bring $200 with him on to the *Hai Hong*, but most of the money is already gone." The cold in the North of Germany does not bother him, in Friedland he wore a winter coat for the first time in his life.

His professional ambitions are modest: he would like to sell wine again but does not think this will be possible,



Vietnamese refugees outside Hohegeiss revenue officers' college, their new home in the Harz mountains, south of Hanover. (Photo: Josef Schmidt)

so he wants to learn a new profession so that he can feed his family.

As he speaks with downcast eyes, he is continually drawing imaginary circles with his index finger on the tabletop.

Duong Phuoc, 50, had a little restaurant, frequented mainly by the less well-off in Cholon. The main item on the menu was Chinese noodle soup. He would like to open a similar soup shop here in Germany somewhere: "the main thing is that I can live in freedom."

One of the most prominent members of the Hohegeiss refugee community is Chinaman Tai Lap, former owner of one of the biggest rubber factories in Vietnam. He is not keen on giving interviews. Every day he receives mail from Hamburg, Paris, Hong Kong. Recently he had visitors from Paris, and there is talk that he has already established business contacts.

In Saigon his every move was observed but he remained unharmed at first because they needed his goods. He escaped by clandestine means from Saigon and rumour has it that he had to pay ten gold ingots to get out.

Secretary of State Dieter Haassengier of the Bundesrat Ministry in Hanover is the man in whose hands the fate of the 1,007 Vietnamese refugees lies. He is a born organiser.

A former general secretary of the Lower Saxon CDU, he has worked out an integration concept based on French experience with the Vietnamese and the principles laid down by the UN High Commission for Refugees.

There are three stages in this concept, though Haassengier realises perfectly well that everything does not always go according to plan.

Stage 1 consists of state help in homes owned or rented by the Land. Stage 2 is due to begin at the beginning of April: the Vietnamese will be divided into large groups and sent to 15 to 20 larger towns and districts.

After another three months, in stage three, local councils will assume responsibility, and here the problem of finding jobs for the refugees will play an important part.

According to Haassengier, the Vietnam refugee campaign has mobilised enormous willingness to help, but it has also revealed some ugly sides. A brothel owner from Hamburg's Reeperbahn offered to pay "DM6,000 for a young Vietnamese girl."

Others have proposed marriage. "Perhaps some of them were genuinely lonely men." Others are looking for cheap home labour "or speculating on payments by the Land."

One hundred and fifty people wrote wanting to adopt a child. The answer here, too, was no: there were no orphans. The number of parcels sent to Friedland was greater than ever before and a total of DM700,000 in cash donations was sent to the Ministry.

The postman still brings small amounts of money to Haassengier's secretary every day. It is being saved for Stage 4, when the Vietnamese move into their own homes and will need furniture.

The SPD stated in the Landtag that they fully supported Herr Albrecht's Vietnam campaign. Haassengier says "this has helped us enormously."

It meant that in towns and local districts which wanted to take refugees the decisions were all unanimous "so we were freed from the worry of having to allocate refugees."

Firm agreements have already been reached with Brunswick, Stade, Oldenburg and Celle. Three of these cities are SPD-ruled. Haassengier hopes to have final allocation worked out by mid-February.

Josef Schmidt

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 January 1979)

■ WOMEN

Kiel woman plans to set up housewives' trade union

Münchner Merkur

British housewives had no qualms about taking to the streets during the lorry-drivers' strike to complain about empty supermarket shelves and the Callaghan government's wage policies.

Gerhild Heuer, a 41-year-old professor of education in Kiel, plans to get West German housewives organised too.

More than ten million, from the Danish border to the Bavarian Alps, are no longer content to look in at society from the edge, she says.

The hausfrau is fast realising she is no outsider; she is the nucleus of society, and ten million women deserve representation by a powerful organisation.

On 31 March Frau Heuer's untiring efforts will lead to the setting-up of a Housewives' Trade Union at a meeting in the Baltic resort of Holm.

Its aim will be to improve the lot of women who feel they unfairly rank as Cinderellas in society.

Gerhild Heuer is a housewife herself. She has been married to a CID officer for fifteen years. And she feels housewives ought not to keep their views to themselves as they slave over the kitchen stove.

It is high time the traditional view of the housewife and mother was brought up to date and into line with society as it now stands, she says.

Improvements can only be brought about once housewives are aware of the economic and political power they wield, which is why she plans to set up her ginger group as a trade union.

Members of established trades unions are not amused; they have accused her of virtual false pretences. She says she has chosen the term with a view to militancy.

She realises that it clashes with general usage but is unperturbed. Her housewives' trade union is intended to take up the cudgels and not just be decorative.

In her old farmhouse home in Schönberg, near Kiel, she outlines the aims of her trade union. They are: legal recognition of housewifery as a profession, health insurance and a social security scheme.

Too many mothers who have brought up tomorrow's taxpayers end up relying on welfare payments.

These demands are nothing new, having been espoused by the Women's Union since 1915 and by the women's section of DGB, the trades union confederation.

But Gerhild Heuer says neither has done so with sufficient determination and fighting spirit. She envisages negotiating terms with government and private institutions, not with husbands.

Housewives and mothers should, once they get organised, be able to improve living-conditions for the family in many ways.

Manufacturers of children's wear could be boycotted until they cut prices without skimping on quality. School strikes could be held to change hours of attendance for infants and reduce the number of children killed and maimed on the road.

She even contemplates boycotting elections. "If women could only agree not to go to the polls the major parties would be in difficulties and results would be a sorry sight in many constituencies.

"In future we should only vote for parties that not only talk about doing something for family but also act," she writes.

She is a 'busy' woman and seldom available but claims on the telephone that the response has been positive and overwhelming. She plans to work round the clock between now and the end of March.

"Once the ball starts rolling you'll no longer have any peace and quiet," her husband forecast. She already has over 1,000 members, many of whom have paid their DM12 a year subscription.

She has 2,500 letters in a dozen files. Only six or seven have been opposed to the idea.

One file contains nothing but letters from men. They range from ministers of the Church to husbands who stay at home to look after the kids. Ages range from twenty to seventy-six.

Single-parent fathers and men who look after their children are welcome to join her organisation.

Women's Union and DGB claim to be taking it easy. They are unperturbed. "Groups with spectacular demands always canvass support," says Frau Blättel of the trades union women's department.



Gerhild Heuer (Photo: Resz)

But Frau Heuer's ideas were nothing new. The methods she envisaged have also been tried out by others and found unworkable. Existing organisations look on it is all a storm in a teacup.

Yet they cannot be entirely at their ease. The Women's Union, for instance, has called on members to write to their newspaper and draw attention to its work.

Frau Blättel is to have trade union lawyers check whether Frau Heuer is entitled to call her organisation a trade union.

Whether the term will induce housewives to stand up and be counted is another matter. Frau Heuer is confident membership will run into five figures.

Maria Bischi

(Münchner Merkur, 30 January 1979)

Back-to-work women regain self-confidence at evening classes

Frankfurter Rundschau

Hamburg labour exchange runs motivation courses for out-of-work women. The first course (free of charge) began last April and was an immediate success.

A third course is now in progress. The women taking it are aged between twenty and fifty.

Heike Schmidt stayed at home for sixteen years for the children's sake. Then she felt she just had to get out and about. Back to work was the answer.

Before marriage she had worked as a drugstore assistant, so she applied to a number of advertisements but was rejected by one prospective employer after another as too old at thirty-six.

She was even more discouraged when the labour exchange failed to turn up trumps. "But they told me to take part in the motivation course for unemployed women, and how right they were!" she says.

Frau Schmidt gained in self-assurance, put in more job applications and eventually got a job working half-days in a drugstore.

Frau Giese is another out-of-work woman for whom the course changed life. "I used to be terribly shy," she explains. She never learnt a trade, was a housewife for five years, worked as a stand-in now and again and is twenty-six.

In the course she kept herself to herself and did little talking, but afterwards she resolved to act. "I didn't even bother ringing the labour exchange; I called a school and asked whether I could attend a course."

She arranged all further details herself and is now doing what she always wanted and learning to be a secretary.

Many of the thirty women who took part in the two evening classes starting last April and June have summoned more courage and gained more self-assurance.

More than half are no longer unemployed. Eight have a job and ten are learning a trade.

These motivation courses planned by the Hamburg further education authorities in conjunction with the labour exchange and held by and according to the ideas of women evening class lecturers are aimed exclusively to help unemployed women.

They were aimed primarily at women who had not learnt a trade or whose qualifications were no longer in demand on the labour market and needed qualifications or a college course to improve their job prospects.

After years spent looking after the home and family, many women lack the confidence needed to embark on further education and miss out on golden opportunities.

In 1977 one student in eight at courses arranged by Hamburg labour exchange fluffed it and failed to last the distance. So motivation courses to be taken beforehand seemed a good idea.

So they were. The women attend a six-week course of twenty periods a week to overcome their fear of further education. They learn about the options open to them and are better able to complete a course.

Motivation courses are clearly a good idea not only for the jobless who need further qualifications to find a job but for anyone who has trouble finding suitable work with his or her qualifications.

Lecturers designed the course to suit the situation of the individual student. Refresher lessons in German and arithmetic did no harm. Students also needed to learn more about work, job prospects and labour legislation.

They were also shown how a woman can run a family and a home and combine the two with both further education and a job.

The aim was less to convey immediately useful knowledge than to foster readiness to learn and initiative. "You have to start enjoying learning again," they were told.

But they were not exposed to full frontal education. Team work was the rule, and students checked their own progress, correcting their own dictation exercises and arithmetic tests.

They also did play-acting to accustom themselves to learning on their own and holding their own in the world of work.

A trained social worker looked after students. She was always available, day and night. "I could always go to her with my problems," Heike Schmidt recalls. "Even if it was just a case of trouble at home with the children. But it's so important to have someone to talk to."

After the first two courses everyone was agreed the scheme had got off to a promising start, but cooperation between course lecturers and the labour exchange clearly needed improvement.

So all seemed clear for a further pilot project. But a fortnight before the third course was due to begin in October the entire project was jeopardised by the news that the social worker was no longer available.

She was scrapped from 1 October and there were not enough applicants to warrant holding a new course.

Women who had applied to take part in the October course were told they would have to wait until January, when a social worker would be available again. The January course, a class of 25, went ahead.

Heidi Burmeister/Hilke Hollikus

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 February 1979)

■ SPORT

Willi Daume says what he would do if he were IOC chairman

The International Olympic Committee is at odds with Los Angeles, host city of the 1984 Olympics. The National Olympic Committee is not exactly all smiles about Moscow yet either.

Where Moscow is concerned, the IOC can expect trouble in connection with China or Taiwan, trouble over Israel and trouble with African competitors.

It hardly seems the best of times to bid for the chairmanship of the IOC, but this is what Essen industrialist Willi Daume, 65, has in mind.

Herr Daume is chairman of the West German NOC and masterminded the 1972 Munich Olympics. He headed the Sports League, to which 45,000-odd sports clubs are currently affiliated, for twenty years.

Irish peer Lord Killanin, the current IOC chairman, is to retire shortly before the Moscow Olympics. Willi Daume, his vice-chairman, would have a good chance of election were he to stand.

Herr Daume would welcome an opportunity of solving the problems the IOC will face in the years ahead. This interview is virtually a manifesto.

Question: You have clearly stated that you would be willing to stand for IOC chairman. Can a German expect to gain enough support to stand a reasonable chance of being elected?

Answer: That's a good question. The world is not keen on Germans doing jobs like this — for obvious reasons. Germany does everything, organises everything, pays for everything, and people don't like it.

All that glitters is not German, but people in many countries have encouraged me to stand, especially reputable IOC members. I haven't said no but I certainly shan't be organising anything that might be termed a lobby.

Q: Is there anything resembling a manifesto, on wider issues rather than mere details, that you as a possible candidate for IOC chairman might be prepared to endorse?

A: The IOC must first make up its mind what it wants. Baron de Coubertin's legacy is all well and good, but just holding Olympic Games every four years is not enough.

The world has changed, and so has the sporting world. The supreme body of world sport will have to change too.

I feel we definitely need an independent world body, but if there is one, it must take the lead, acting and not just reacting.

Willi Daume (Photo: dpa)

The problems we face with the Third World alone are formidable. We shall have to show and act more sensitively, more imaginatively and with greater foresight.

If we fail to do so and others, such as politicians or organisations like the UN or Unesco, take the initiative, we shall have only ourselves to blame.

Maybe our entire set-up is too modest in comparison with others, especially political bodies. The IOC meets in full session only once a year. It has a world-wide executive board, advisory committees and a small office in Lausanne.

Does that mean I favour a United Nations of sport? I can hardly envisage one, but maybe others will set one up. There are plans aplenty, as well we know.

Many lines along which the IOC is run are no longer up-to-date. The Olympic idea still has its attraction, but it alone is not enough.

Many younger IOC members have told me they would gladly play a more active role.

Q: But would not democratisation of the IOC be something that has long been rejected with gestures of flamboyant pathos? Have not East Bloc NOCs called for democratisation often enough?

A: An idea is not necessarily wrong merely because it is put forward by one side or the other. Besides, we are already growing more democratic, accepting more and more new Third World members.

But what I should like to stress is something else. I feel it is high time the IOC regained the intellectual lead in world sport it held in its early days.

Many people who are well disposed towards world sport expect it to do so. I reckon it stands a fair chance of regaining the lead and the trend is encouraging.

There is plenty of idealism still around in the world, although much may be mistaken. But can we claim to have got everything right?

Does top-flight sport overrate performance? Does it entail all manner of manipulation up to and including degeneration and inhumanity?

These questions can be answered and problems solved provided the Olympic movement is based on firm ideas. This is a message that cannot be hammered home too often.

We probably need a brains trust, access to the world's intellectual currents, maybe research contracts and the services of young, well-paid specialists. There is certainly no reason why we should be short of funds.

Q: Would it be fair to say that the fuddy-duddy old IOC is dead and buried?

A: It probably has been for some time, yet the IOC is the only truly international organisation that has really accomplished what it set out to do all this century.

The Olympics are more popular than ever. I cannot imagine what could possibly take their place. For that matter I cannot imagine what could possibly take the IOC's place either.

All the IOC must do is go with the times in a manner befitting itself and world sport.

Q: What might happen if it failed to do so?

A: Well, I shall be submitting my ideas to the IOC when the time comes, and I shall be making no secret of my view that it would be better to entrust a smoothly-functioning and imaginative organisation with major planning over and above the holding of the Games.

It would certainly be better that way if the IOC were to lack the courage and energy, the modernity of outlook and readiness to run risks this might entail.

The IOC would always retain control of the Olympics, but in a swiftly changing world sport plays such an important part (as a peace-keeper, for instance) that the interests of any one organisation are less important than the need to fulfil this role.

In the final anylysis it may not matter who does it, but I still prefer a free organisation such as the IOC. Other candidates may disagree, and they have every right to do so.

If my views are not accepted and someone else is elected it will not be a disaster. I have already done a fair amount of work.

Q: What makes you so keen to do the job?

A: I like solving tough problems, and the IOC is a major challenge.

Ulrich Kaiser

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 February 1979)

Silver again for ice-skater Dagmar Lurz

Dagmar Lurz, 20, from Dortmund, did so well in the first part of the European ice-skating championships in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, that she was sure of a medal.

Reigning champion Annett Pötzsch of the GDR was still ahead on points, but the West German girl, who was runner-up last year, was harder on her heels.

Annett Pötzsch, 18, was awarded first place by six judges, second by one and third by another. Dagmar Lurz rated two firsts, six seconds and one third.

West German judge Heinz Müllenbach did not see fit to award her a first place. He rated her second.

She and trainer Erich Zeller were pleased with her performance but a little disappointed by the ratings. "It was an absolute disgrace for a judge to award her 3½ points out of six, as one did," Zeller grumbled.

A sidelined star, Alexander Saitsev of the Soviet Union, hit the headlines merely by breaking his silence. "We are still in the running," he reassured millions of ice-skating fans, "and aim to take part in the 1980 Olympics."

"We means Saitsev and his pairs partner and wife Irina Rodnina, 29, who is expecting a baby back home in Moscow. Irina reigned supreme for a decade, but at Zagreb her trainer Stanislav Shuk took another Soviet pair, Marina Cherkasova and Sergei Shakrai, to the top.



Dagmar Lurz (Photo: Horstmüller)

He was not there to see them win gold. Shuk was said to be suffering from pneumonia, but rumour has it he made remarks at a political reception in Moscow for which he has been banned from foreign travel.

Tina Riegel and Andreas Nischwitz from Stuttgart, the West German champions, came eighth. They were the first German pair ever to attempt a triple toe loop.

Nischwitz did not pull it off perfectly, but at training sessions in Zagreb they had not even tried out the figure, which is one of the hardest there is.

K. D. Spieckermann/sid

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 February 1979)